



## HISTORY LESSON 2: The Covered Bridge

The most frequently photographed feature in the Village is the covered log bridge that provides shelter for Village Lane, as it crosses over the picturesque creek that flows beneath it. Although the bridge has become an icon and important symbol of the beauty and serenity that is representative of life in Wolf Laurel, it is in fact a relatively new addition to our landscape.

Built as recently as April 2004 by Orville English, who also contributed to the building of many other structures in the Village, the covered bridge is only one of the many “homemade” installations, familiar to our residents and visitors. Constructed of heavy logs and recalling a past history of the pioneer efforts of early Western North Carolina natives, these structures were designed and built not as carefully engineered architectural entities, but from experience and a practical necessity to use materials readily available in a mountain environment. Heavy metal bolts and nuts hold these structures together. When the WLPOA purchased the Village amenities and those buildings within the almost 10 acre area in October of 2010, it inherited the log cover over Village



Lane. The road beneath the bridge became part of the transfer of roads and other real properties effected between the Roads, Maintenance, and Security Corporation and Bald Mountain Development Corporation in September of 2011; thus WLPOA owns the iconic log cover over Village Lane and RMS owns the road itself – a shared responsibility.

The road and actual bridge had been showing significant deterioration in the summer of 2009; the previous (changed as of September 2011) RMS board undertook an investigation of its safety and future reliability. The creek is one that is governed by stringent regulations, since it is considered a breeding ground for our mountain trout, and no work can disturb its pristine environment from mid-November to mid-April. So any repair or replacement of the bridge beneath the road must take place outside of those dates.

The former RMS board requested opinions for the deteriorating bridge’s repair or replacement from an engineering firm in Asheville who submitted a design. Replacement, using that firm’s design, was



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**328 MCKINNEY -JUST REDUCED!!**  
Golf course log home that offers 4 Bdr's, 2.5 Baths, 1597sqft, furnished, stone fplc, great views of tee box, unfinished 606sqft lower level for expansion. Close to club. MLS#517534 **\$165,000**



**179 CHESTNUT VILLAGE- JUST REDUCED!!** Cozy log home with allpaved access, 2 Bdr's, 1.5 Baths, cvrd front porch, stone fplc, gas heat, mostly furnished, large back deck for entertaining. Golf membership available. MLS#409947 **\$189,000**



**2665 EL MINER-IMMACULATE CHALET!!** Located right off the 6th tee, nestled on a wooded lot that offers 2 Bdr's, 2 Baths and loft area. stone fplc, mostly furnished, 1325sqft, gas heat, unfinished 716sqft for additional elbow room or storage. MLS#519601 **\$224,000**



**228 BUCKEYE RD- JUST REDUCED!!** Contemporary mountain home with a great floor plan, 3 master suites, brick fplc, family room on lower level, gas heat, powder room on main level, large wrap-around deck, mountain views, high elevation, almost all paved access, double garage, workshop. MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE!!! MLS#532961 **\$245,000**



**569 PISGAH PASS RD- EXTREME LONG RANG VIEWS & HIGH ELEVATION-**Possible owner finance, mountain home that offers 3 Bdr's, 3.5 Baths, stone fplc, gas heat, wood floors, paved driveway, mostly furnished, 1874sqft. MLS#469393 **\$249,000**



**998 MCKINNEY GAP RD-JUST REDUCED !! BRING YOUR OFFER FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN HOME-**All paved access and high elevation, did I mention views? Spacious 4 Bdr's, 3.5 Baths, stone fplc, furnished, gas heat, tons of rock work. Great investment potential!! MLS#483929 **\$349,000**



**868 ENGLISH RIDGE DR-** LOCATED ON 2.55 ACRES W/ MOUNTAIN VIEWS-Great locale for year round living, 3 Bdr's, 2 Baths for this log home, detach. garage/workshop, mostly furnished, stoen fplc, cvrd front porch and deck. MLS#526969 **\$325,000**



**68 GARDENSIDE LANE- CONTEMPORARY MTN HOME THAT IS A BEAUTY-3374SQFT** Makes this home family sized w/ 3 Bdr's, 3 Baths, wood floors, cath. ceilings, stone fplc, 2 bonus rooms and family room on lower level, mountain views from cvrd deck, garage on main level, open floor plan, mostly furnished. MLS#509764



**3340 EL MINER DRIVE-EXTREME QUALITY CONSTRUCTION W/ IMPRESSIVE STONE FPLC ON GOLF COURSE,** Log home w/mtn views, mostly furnished, fa,ily room w/fplc, wood floors, cath. ceilings, paved drive. MLS#515854 **\$475,000**

completed in early summer of 2010. The old bridge was replaced with a system of three concrete culverts, which were thought to be sufficient to manage the normal water volume of the creek. What happened in August of 2010 was one of the many lessons that Mother Nature has a consistent habit of throwing at those of us who think that we are somehow in control of the earth and the skies above. On Jason Brown's very first day as Director of Road Maintenance, August 17, 2010, having replaced the previous director Harold Tipton who had been involved in the new bridge's installation, a serious flood occurred when Wolf Laurel experienced 8 to 10 inches of heavy rain in a few hours. It was determined that the newly designed bridge beneath Village Lane and the covered bridge was indeed ill-equipped to deal with more than a "normal" increase of water volume, occasionally occurring during spring thaw and typical mountain rainfall. Two more floods occurred in 2011 and 2012 after the first in August 2010, each compromising the effectiveness and safety of the Village Lane bridge, and effecting minor damage in the Village, but none having equal deleterious circumstance as that to the bridge.

In the summer 2012 the RMS board decided that something had to be done: the bridge as designed by the Asheville engineering firm had never been adequate to the demands of a bridge experiencing usual and anticipated seasonal creek volume change and used as the primary access to the Village and its Amenities; many residents (summer and year-round) regularly use it daily and throughout the year. Also questions were raised as to the stability of the log cover,

owned by the WLPOA, which shows damage as a result of the inadequate bridge. In the initial contract with the engineering firm, there was a "guaranty of performance." Thus negotiations between RMS and the bridge designer began; as anyone could guess, there was a difference of opinion as to the extent of that "guaranty." Negotiations continued into the fall of 2012, when RMS thought that an agreeable solution to the dilemma had been reached. As the engineering firm began to drag its feet, however, the November 15th deadline for doing anything that would endanger a prominent breeding ground for trout in the creek passed, and winter in Wolf Laurel set in. Through the winter of 2013 exchanges between the two primary parties continued.

RMS has assured the TOB that work will begin on the bridge "as quickly as possible," and work can legally begin after April 15, when the trout are done with "their thing." Awareness exists that 5 employees in The Barn, returning seasonal residents and year-rounders who depend on Village Lane for primary access to their homes, and those attending the numerous events for Amenities members and others held in the Village from May to November, depend upon safe passage over the bridge and under the log cover. That road may carry more traffic than any other road, except Wolf Laurel Road, during the season. Currently it is posted with signs, warning "Do Not Cross In High Water." Drivers should be aware of that fact, as well as the fact that it would be wise to SLOW DOWN, whether there is water flowing or not.

Concern, regarding the structural integrity of the log cover over the road and bridge, has recently been expressed by several residents, who have engineering and construction expertise. Though the cover has a vintage appearance, it is in fact less than 10 years old. WLPOA is invested in the maintenance of this iconic symbol of the serenity and natural beauty of our community.

As of the date of writing this article, April 7, 2013, knowledge of further progress on bridge repairs is unavailable. Further progress will be available to property owners through notices from RMS and WLPOA on our websites or email alerts.

**EDITORIAL NOTE:** Both the RMS and WLPOA boards are hard-working, dedicated, uncompensated volunteers who devote untold hours to maintaining the security, stability, entertainment, education and sport of our residents. **THEY DESERVE OUR ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT!** That means getting involved; meeting times and dates for both boards are always posted prominently on the bulletin board just inside the gate. Meetings are held in the conference room up the stairs in The Barn. There's always a fresh cup of Starbucks coffee and soft drinks available to compensate for the usual 10AM meeting times! You will be welcomed and, if willing, put to work. There is much to do to secure the beauty of this rare place, our Wolf Laurel.

# President's Corner

By Frank Perritt

As I write this report snow plows are clearing the roads from the most recent late March snow storm and the temperature is 18 degrees. Having been on the mountain during the snow storm the week following Christmas, I want to extend my thanks to the hard work of Roads & Security snow clearing crews for keeping the roads open.

In spite of the winter weather, plans continue to move forward for the 2013 season. The Amenities Committee, Chaired by Earlene Shofi, has met frequently to develop the 2013 Amenities program. A major change this year will be a two day July event over the 4th and 5th with Wolf Laurel Country Club and WLPOA jointly sponsoring the

events; the fireworks extravaganza will be held on the evening of 5 July. This will be a family event with activities for children of all ages including tennis matches, a Pickle ball demonstration game, inflatables for bouncing and climbing, a band in the Pavilion for listening and dancing, swimming in the renovated pool, the Ebbs Chapel Fire truck for children to tour, cotton candy, and popcorn; other events are still in the planning. Instead of a catered meal, families are encouraged to bring their picnic baskets full of goodies to eat. While all of the costs have not been established, the ticket pricing for the 5th July events will be considerably lower than last year or several previous years.

The events, spread over two days, allow WLCC to have longer golf play on the 4th as well as the Doggie parade and Cart parade followed by a buffet dinner in the Club. A new twist will be that all of the events on both days will be open to all Wolf Laurel property owners and their guests.

As a result of the hard work by John Beneke, Treasurer, and Kristie Cody, Office Manager, all bookkeeping and accounting except for the payroll has been brought in house. This provides more current information and reports, and substantially reduces WLPOA's accounting costs. The year-end review of WLPOA's 2012 financial records will be conducted by our Audit Committee,

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consisting of Wolf Laurel residents and CPA's, Tom Conrad and Roy Miller, as soon as the tax season is finished. A report is expected in late April.

As a result of electronic mailing, dues statements and the ability to pay on line by credit card has resulted in dues received to date substantially sooner than the same time last year. Unfortunately, some members have not paid the \$125 Annual WLPOA dues by the March 31st deadline and will not be listed in the 2013 Wolf Laurel Directory; it is expected to be ready for distribution in early June.

Also, eighteen property owners have already signed on as new

WLPOA members for 2013. As a result of the Roads & Security buy out of Bald Mountain Development Corporation, WLPOA has been able to extend to the twenty-one property owners in The Ridges an invitation to join WLPOA and the Amenities program.

The swimming pool is expected to be open by Memorial Day weekend and the Amenities program will be in full swing. Cindy Tucker, Activities Director, is located in the Community Center and can furnish WLPOA members and non-members information regarding the advantages available by being a member of WLPOA and the Amenities program.

While on the mountain this season, come by the Community Center and grab a cup of fresh Starbucks coffee. Also please drop by the WLPOA monthly Board meetings, normally held on the 2nd Friday at 10AM. We are pleased that attendance at our Board meetings by property owners continues to grow; after all, a well-informed property owner is a happy property owner! WLPOA will continue to keep you updated by the Website and alerts on the programs, activities and events on the mountain and surrounding towns, and through the bi-monthly TOP OF THE BALD newsletter.

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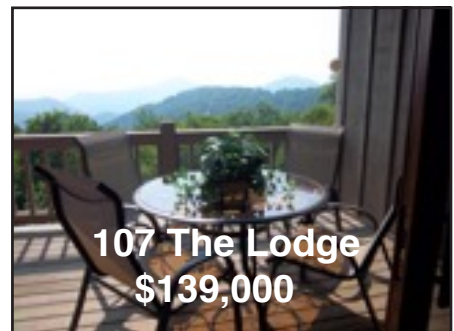
**Wolf Laurel You Tube** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQ1WvzclC1s>



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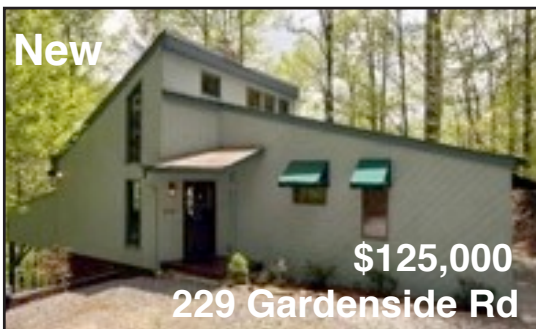
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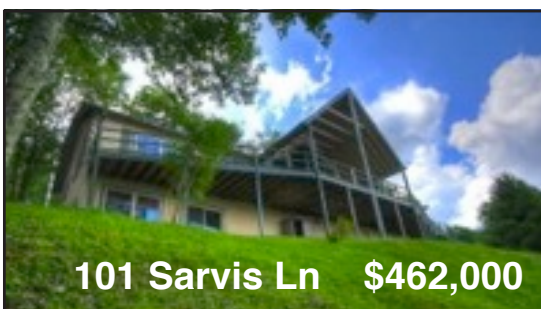


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**\$125,000**  
**MLS 534546**



**101 Sarvis Ln \$462,000**

**New listing...4 Bedroom, 3 Bath ski in, ski out home with Long Range Views. Split floor plan, Open, Vaulted Ceilings, Wood flooring, Fireplace, & Game room.Great Family Home or Investment/Rental Property.**

**MLS 451100 \$462,000**



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Wolf  
Laurel*

## Did You Know?

If you are an Equity Member of the WLPOA Amenities Program and you have decided to sell your property, in the interest of Full Disclosure, we believe that it is important that you read this information

All prospective Purchasers of property within Wolf Laurel should be made aware of their obligations, if they are considering purchasing from a Seller who is an Equity Member of the WLPOA Amenities Program.

If the Seller is an Equity Member, the Purchaser of the Seller's property is required under the legal document designated as Equity Membership Redemption Agreement and Submission of Real Property to the Declaration for Wolf Laurel Equity Membership Amenities Program which the Equity Member signed, and the Declaration of Protective Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Wolf Laurel Equity membership Amenities Program as recorded in Madison & Yancey Counties

on November 29, 2011, to become Equity Members of the WLPOA Amenities Program. These documents ensure the continued financial stability of the Amenities Program and allow the Seller to redeem his original Equity Membership fee, less any unpaid Dues, Fees, or Assessments.

The funds for the transaction are to be collected from the Purchaser at the closing of the sale/purchase and remitted to the Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association, 91 Village Lane, Mars Hill, NC 28754 in the following manner:

- WLPOA Annual Dues (1st year) \$125.00
- Equity Membership Initiation Fee \$1,900.00
- Annual Amenities Dues (1st year) \$350.00
- (\$500 if a rental property)
- Total \$2,375.00
- (\$2,525.00 if rental)

The Seller, if an Equity Member of the Amenities Program, or his/her realtor, should inform the Purchaser that the Seller is an Equity Member. In addition, the Seller is obligated to inform the WLPOA 30 days in advance of the closing date of the sale.

Further, the Purchaser is obligated to remain a member in good standing by paying any dues, fees, or assessment promptly.

We believe that the above information will facilitate the Sale and Purchase process and eliminate future misunderstandings.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristie Cody Kristie@wolflaurelpoa.com or (828) 689-9229.



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## Meet the Staff: Cindy Tucker, Amenities Director



My family and I moved from Charleston, South Carolina to North Carolina in 1998 – fulfilling a dream of ours to live in the beautiful mountains of Madison County. I had worked as a Marketing Manager for Hill-Rom, a medical equipment company, for 15 years. It was an interesting career working in Strategic Planning, Market Research and Marketing in both the Acute Care and Long Term Care divisions. Early in my tenure there I did medical research at the Medical University using a card catalog system! My first ‘laptop’ was a Compaq computer that weighed about 40 pounds and was as big as a suitcase. Imagine getting on an airplane with that! I was the first in the company to get a PC and thought I was a big shot when I got a Bernoulli hard drive that would hold two 10 meg discs! The technology explosion during my time there was amazing. I created a value added service for the company - a database that provided detailed analysis to our healthcare customers regarding patient outcomes. Revolutionary

in those days. I traveled extensively to speak to customer groups and work with our medical sales staff across the country doing customer presentations and helping in their efforts towards continuous improvement in the quality of care delivered in healthcare facilities.

In my spare time, for years I volunteered for an AIDS support organization in Charleston, working with assigned clients and eventually serving on the Board of Directors. My husband and I also were leaders in the local Sierra Club and worked with legislators and other government officials and other environmental organizations to make a difference. Then, in 1995, we got the best news we could have hoped for. A baby girl was born and we had been selected by the birth mother to be her family. We brought Sarah home when she was 7 days old. This was something we had waited on for over five years and we were taken by surprise when it finally happened. We had 3 days to prepare to bring her home (thanks to a neighbor, she didn’t sleep in a drawer!) and consider our priorities. This is when the dream of a home in the mountains started to become real. We sold 133 acres we had purchased in East Tennessee and came back to buy land in Madison County.

We built our strawbale home on 28 acres in the Little Pine Community – close to Marshall - over the first two and a half years after moving to the area. To help with construction costs, I worked for the first year here as a consultant for Hill-Rom. Then, decided to get involved in the vibrant arts community here - something I had always wanted to do. My primary interest was

in pottery, but I ended up an apprentice in a small custom stained glass studio. After 3 years, I opened my own custom shop in Weaverville and spent the next 4 years enjoying the creative process, the beauty of the final product and the peace of the small town. My neighbor in Marshall, David Payne, owner of Wolf Laurel Stables, told me about an Amenities job here at Wolf Laurel in early 2005. I decided to give it a shot and have loved working in this beautiful community ever since. Mark, my husband of 32 years (yes, we met in high school), has been a Science teacher in both high school and middle school for over 28 years. He’s been at AC Reynolds Middle teaching science and coaching Science Olympiad since we relocated. He loves the summers off to work in our organic garden, puttin’ up the veggies in his summer kitchen, and cutting firewood for the winter to come. You’ll see him here during Kid’s Camp on Science day – a camper favorite! He’s an excellent table tennis player and we’re both big Gamecock fans – having graduated from the University of South Carolina.

Volunteerism and involvement in the local community has always been important to me. Opportunities aren’t hard to find. I became a Board Member of the Madison County Arts Council and then, President of the Board in 2011. It’s a great organization that brings so many wonderful programs to the residents of Madison County. Check out the many offerings from the Arts Council at [www.madisoncountyarts.com](http://www.madisoncountyarts.com). These days, my spare time is mostly spent helping my daughter, Sarah, work towards a professional career in music. She’s been singing since



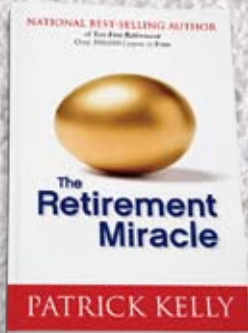
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she was 18 months old (on key!) and music has been a huge part of her life. Sarah has been performing professionally for several years now and has just released her first Nashville-produced CD, 'The Windowsill Girl'. I – the 'momager' – for now, along with her 'roadiedad' have taken her from Madison County all the way to the Coast to perform for audiences large and small. Check out her music on [www.sarahtuckermusic.com](http://www.sarahtuckermusic.com) (or search on YouTube, Facebook, ReverbNation, etc.). Her music is

now available on iTunes, CD Baby, Amazon and many other web outlets. As you can see, I'm not shy about promoting her work. Sarah will graduate from AC Reynolds High School in June. Look out, world!

This is my ninth season here at Wolf Laurel and I can certainly say that it's been an honor to work with so many amazing community members and co-workers. Our Amenities and Maintenance Committees are a great bunch of community

volunteers who have contributed so much of their time to help improve our facilities and our Program & Events offerings. Stop in at the Community Center to say hello, enjoy a cup of coffee and pick up the latest Program & Event schedule. I'll look forward to seeing you!

## SUMMER CAMPS 2013

I have often heard mature residents who come to Wolf Laurel for the summer season say that it's like coming to a summer camp for adults because there are so many wonderful things to do. It's great to see so many people enjoy the beauty of Wolf Laurel and the variety of opportunities that are available - hiking, picnics, community socials, fitness classes and so many other possibilities.

We certainly want our younger summer residents to have some great opportunities for fun and learning as well. There are three wonderful camps for kids that they can take advantage of right here on the mountain. They've all been scheduled to try to catch as many visiting kids and grandkids as possible by holding the various camps around the timeframe of the 4th of July.



**Wolf Laurel Stables Horse Camp:**  
 June 24th - June 28th  
 10am - 2:30pm  
 Ages 5-18; Cost \$275 per Camper;  
 Register by June 10th, 2013  
 Contact David Payne at  
 828-678-9370/828-380-9222 or  
 Cindy Tucker at 828-689-4089 or  
 cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com

This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to learn many basic horsemanship skills including horse and barn safety, grooming, basic care and understanding the horse's body language. There is a huge emphasis on safety while at the Stables and around the horses. The week will also include a nature walk to help the kids learn to get familiar with their surroundings, a farrier



demonstration, and instruction on using Western saddle and tack. The kids will have more time on horseback, learning basic riding skills (walking, trotting) and also skills that make the rider feel more comfortable and confident. There will be a family cookout, music, wagon rides and trail rides on the final day of camp.

**Big Bald Vacation Bird School:**  
 July 8th - July 12th, 9am - 4pm  
 Rising 5th - 7th Grade Students;  
 Cost \$225 per Student



Contact Mark Hopey at  
 828-736-1217 or <http://bigbaldbanding.org/vbs-2013-bigbaldbanding@gmail.com>

This is a great opportunity provided by Southern Appalachian Raptor Research. VBS is a 'bird-brained' science day camp that offers an intensive, fun and adventurous immersion into the ecology of breeding birds, using their habitat as the outdoor classroom. Our home base this year is Hampton Creek Cottage in the Pisgah National Forest - just 5 minutes from the Wolf Laurel Community. Daily expeditions to Big Bald Mountain will explore the science and natural history of bird communities using field guides, binoculars and bird banding. Classroom sessions will use inventive methods to hone observation and identification skills, including literature readings, creative writing and applied arts to better understand the role of birds in mountain ecology. The number of students and scholarships are limited.

**The Village Wolf Cub Kid's Camp:**  
 July 8th - July 12th, 9am - 3pm  
 Ages 5-10; Cost \$250 per Camper;  
 Register by June 10th, 2013  
 Contact Cindy Tucker at  
 828-689-4089 or



cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com

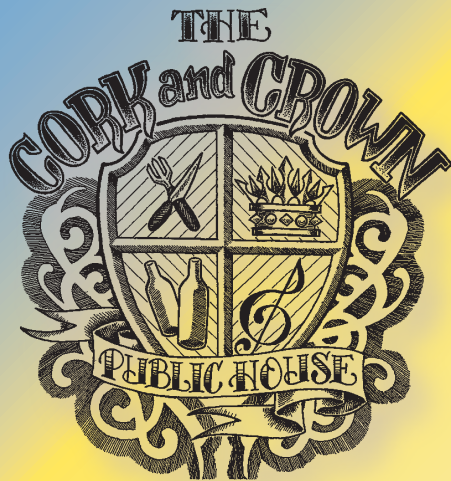
This good ol' fashioned fun camp is great for kids who enjoy howling, swimming, crafts of all sorts, kickball, basketball, 4-square, science, tie dyeing, acting like pirates, learning about local wildlife and lots more.

Each year, we bring in educators, crafters and helpers that are safety conscious, experienced in working with young kids, and are determined to help each child maximize their social, creative and activity interests. We give the kids opportunities to choose from some of the activities each day so that their most intense interests will be reflected in how they spend their time. On the final day of camp, we have an ice cream party right after lunch, then invite the Wolf Laurel Community down for a Wildlife Education Program that is entertaining and of interest to all ages.



Registration forms for all three camps are also available at the WLPOA Community Center.

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## Covenant Corner

By David Schmidt

Today, 3/6/2013, I received an email from our friends at Roads and Security that Wolf Laurel received 5-7 inches of snow. This snow covered the layer of ice, which had been deposited prior to the snowfall. All in all, treacherous driving conditions. Time for you "year-rounders" to pick up a book, light a nice fire, and dig through your refrigerators.

Speaking of good books, I borrowed a book from our "own" library during my last WL visit two weeks ago. Written by Bill Bryson, the book is titled "The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid." For any males who grew up following WW 2, I think you would find a lot of laughs and memories of your childhood years. One memorable paragraph talks about how "kids who were pushed out the door at eight in the morning and not allowed back in until five unless they were on fire or actively bleeding. If you stood on any corner with a bike-any corner anywhere-more than a hundred children, many of whom you had

never seen before, would appear and ask you where you were going." Somehow I always find time to read when I am on the mountain.

While watching the new reality show Myrtle Manor, I noticed that we WL residents have a lot in common. Although I am certain that Myrtle Manor does not have 19 pages of covenants and restrictions, they still have rules and regulations regarding such things as property maintenance, public safety, transportation modes, and animal control, amongst others. We are fortunate to be governed by a Board of Directors; our RMS oversees our infrastructure -- something Myrtle Manor lacks.

No one expects property owners to know each and every restriction and owner responsibility contained in the "Covenants"; however Article 5, B.1 does state the following: "Each owner is absolutely responsible for knowledge of and adherence to the Restrictions in this Declarations Amended." When in doubt, refer to your covenants for guidance. You may obtain a copy at the RMS office or by going to the RMS website to download a copy.

A couple of items that I would like to address are as follows. Under article IV, D.1 a, reference is given to the use of residential lots. "No residence lot shall be used except for residential purposes by one family residing in a detached, single-family dwelling. b. "No residence may operate as a bed and breakfast (B&B), duplex, rooming or boarding house. No use of Lots which would require any occupational license shall be permitted." So when those pesky, unwanted relatives call next summer, be sure to lay this on them!

There is another covenant restriction that I am grateful for. Every time I enter through the Wolf Laurel gates, I feel fortunate that we are not subject to the tacky Real Estate cardboard signs that are so numerous along Puncheon Fork Rd. No offense to realtors, but there are numerous ways to communicate "properties for sale" (an add in the TOB) without the clutter of FOR SALE signs.

Enjoy your spring, Detour Dave

Looking for a few good ....Your presence is requested ....  
Put your best foot forward .....Speak up or forever ....Now is the time ....Step up to the....

### Seeking New Leaders

Another summer season is on its way, and along with it comes the annual search for community minded residents willing to run for the WLPOA Board. We will have several vacancies to fill this time around and we need to hear from you now.

This is an opportunity for you to play an important role in developing or improving existing WLPOA policies and social events. Each of you has skills and ideas that are of value to our community. When necessary, meetings can be attended from the comfort of your home, as we use Internet communications for board and committee meetings.

Please email: [wlpboard@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:wlpboard@wolflaurelpoa.com) to let us know your desire to run or to suggest potential nominees for the open board positions.



## THE VIEW FROM MY DECK

In 2009 Ann Kerr Dobbins, our cherished year-round resident of many years, published a book of remarkable memoir, written over several years: *THE MORNING OF THE CARDINAL*. She graciously has allowed the TOB to reprint a chapter from her book that vividly retells the story of a frightening Wolf Laurel ice storm.

High in the beautiful, forested mountains of North Carolina, backing to the Appalachian Trail, is Wolf Laurel, an area developed for vacation homes. My husband and I have a log house in this heaven-on-earth, and we just happened to be up from Texas on February 27, 1987 when Mother Nature did her “ice storm thing”. Old timers, who have lived all their lives in these mountains, say they never before had seen anything like it. If you haven’t had the ice storm experience, you might have the notion that it is a horrible, roaring freak that, without any warning, comes slamming down in great frozen sheets and assorted chunks. Not so! It comes on “little cat feet” like a Carl Sandberg fog, and conditions have to be just right or it won’t come at all. Watching helplessly, Rip and I learned its formula.

### Recipe: Ice Storm Awesome

1. Permit sap to rise in all trees. (This is a debatable requirement, akin to pre-soaking beans. Rip says it isn’t necessary.)
2. Chill all tree branches at 34 degrees for 12 hours.
3. Add heavy fog and misting rain. What mountain people call “frog hair rain” is ideal.
4. Now set temperatures below 32 degrees, but no lower than 29. (Colder temperatures will produce snow, which will not coat tree branches sufficiently.)
5. Stop all winds so that moisture will not be shaken from the branches.
6. Permit this gentle drizzle and fog to coat everything, every twig with a steady build-up of ice. Continue for twelve hours. Trees then will begin to break, and they will continue to snap as long as proper conditions exist. Huge trees will become so top-heavy that they will uproot.
7. Now permit wind gusts to assist in tree felling.

Frog hair rain, fog, and a 34 degree chill persisted all day February 26th. In late afternoon, when the mercury dropped to 32 degrees, we started to understand what was about to happen. We stopped lazing by the fire and began our walk-about to check the porch thermometer, to inspect tree branches, and to say, “Hoo, boy!” By midnight ice build-up had begun and we went to bed wishing mightily for a thaw.

About four a.m., when branches began cracking and falling on our roof, sleep became impossible. Across the road, a tree fell on the power line, causing bright electrical arcs at the transformer. After that, we had no electricity. No heat. We piled on blankets and held hands. I was scared.

At daylight, Rip got up and built a big fire in our stone fireplace. I stayed in bed dozing and dreaming that lovely summer had come. So real was this dream that I sat up in bed to look out the windows, but instead of green leaves, there was a stunning white landscape. Every tree was dressed in exquisite lace. A large branch had broken from a budding maple and was dangling by our deck railing. Hundreds of its pink buds, each encased in ice, had become

amethyst crystals. Rhododendron buds had become large emerald eggs. How gorgeous!

Shivering, I bundled in layers of wool clothes and hurried to the fireplace. Using antique cooking utensils, I prepared breakfast over the coals. Coffee never tasted so good. For a while things were exciting, fun, and romantic – for a little while, that is. The wind picked up, rattling and clattering ice laden branches. We stood on our deck and were awe-struck. We heard continuous, sharp snapping as whole tree tops broke away and swooshed down. Trunks cracked, sounding like rifle shots, and, occasionally, large trees would uproot and crash with sickening “whumps.” A tall oak began leaning

over the back of our house, its branches touching our roof. About one o’clock, Dick Bustin called from his real estate office at “The Barn” to ask if we’re OK and to suggest that we go to Asheville. He said that everyone at the barn was leaving because of the danger and because “The Mountain” (Wolf Laurel) would be without power or water for several days. He added that the power company was pulling all its men off the mountain. Earlier, a man had been knocked out of his cherry picker by a falling tree, so there would be no further attempts to restore power as long as the ice storm continued. Dick said that since daybreak work crews had been sawing and hauling trees to get the main road open, and that we

could get out if we left immediately. Quickly we threw a few things into our rented Toyota and began our nerve-wracking trip out of Wolf Laurel. At any moment a tree could have fallen on us. Rip was able to thread the tiny car through low-bending trees and around fallen trees on McDaris Loop and Wolf Laurel Road. Surprisingly, as soon as we passed through the security gate, there was no more ice to be seen anywhere. In Asheville, it was a warm fifty degrees.

That night we slept in my father’s house, safe in my girlhood bedroom. I woke often, worried for all of Wolf Laurel. Trees there continued to fall for forty-eight hours.

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Three days later we returned to Wolf Laurel and were heart sick to see so much damage. Nine miles of telephone and power lines were down and sixty-four homes had suffered roof damage. Joe Earman, General Manager of Bald Mountain Development, had declared a state of emergency, and, in response, the State of North Carolina had sent a hundred men from the National Guard. They were all over the place clearing our roads.

Luckily, our house was not damaged. The leaning oak had fallen, missing our house by two feet. Five trees had fallen across our driveway, and many others on our property were broken or uprooted. A summer's worth of work lay ahead of us.

The first evening back after the ice-storm, serenity presided. As though nothing at all had happened, a sunset blazed in a magnificent display over our purple mountains. Mother Nature was demonstrating the capricious extremes of her power. By the time Venus had appeared, brilliant in the crimson afterglow, I felt no need to wish on that evening star. Strength and peace had come from the mountains. They were teaching me endurance and patience. In the coming summer, the forest's hurts would heal, and we would see it bedecked again in flowering trees and green leaves.



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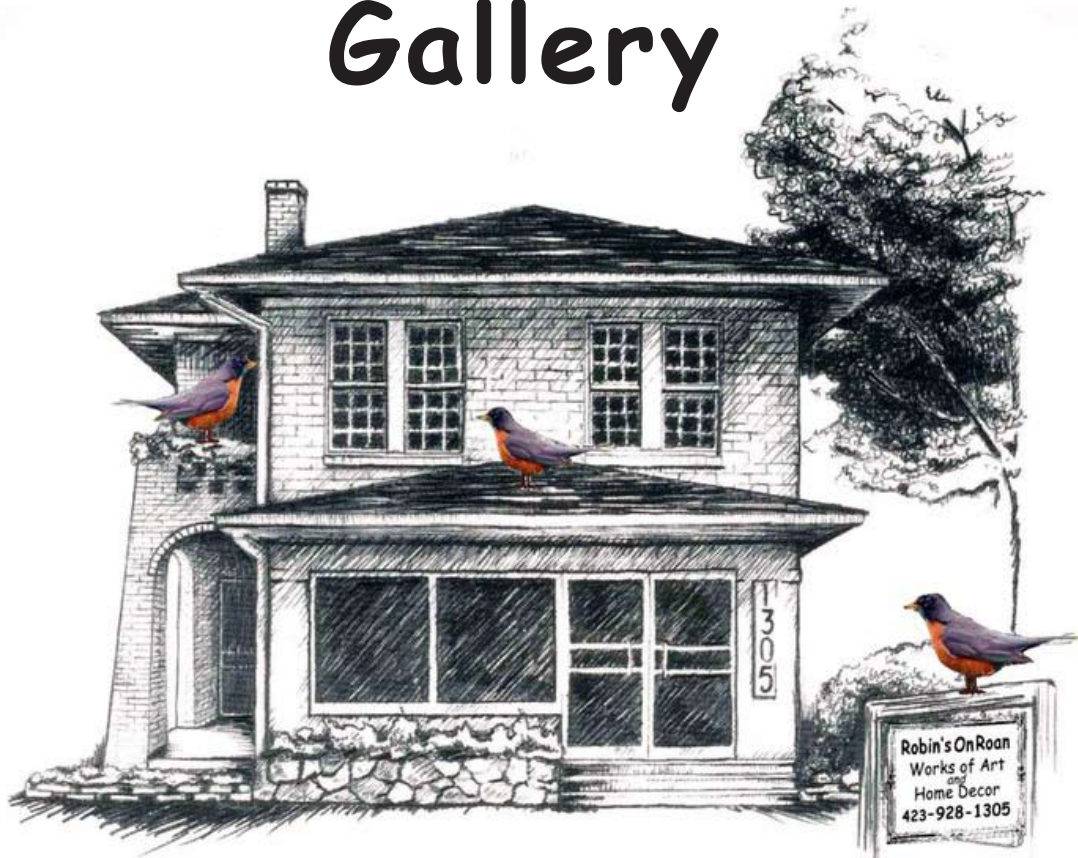
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## ON THE ROAD AGAIN: Notes from Roads and Security

Although the winter of 2013 could not compare in terms of snowfall with the winters of 2009, 2010, and 2011, it posed its unique challenges: periodic and exceedingly heavy snowstorms and a late ice storm, that descended on April 5. The first snowfall surprised residents who had lingered until Halloween on the mountain – a storm related to the backside of Hurricane Sandy. That one, accompanied by very high winds, dropped a foot of the fluffy stuff all over the mountain.

Crews, who were just beginning to ramp up for the winter with salt and sand, were challenged to immediately clear roads, so seasonal residents could return to their winter, warmer homes. It is usual for crews to begin to clear, salt, and sand roads as early as 3:30AM! It is truly a 24/7 project, and we are grateful to the crews for their diligence and dedication. One can call the gate at any hour or Sandy during working hours, if you are on the mountain, have a special need to

leave your residence early, and the crews have not gotten around to clearing your road as yet. Clearing private entrances and driveways are always the residents' responsibility.

The late ice storm was a surprise, although one should NEVER be very surprised at any weather event here in Wolf Laurel. We enjoy the extraordinary beauty and accept the occasional unpredictable, off-the-wall, weather event.

On another note, there were two isolated break-ins into vacant homes over the winter: one in the Big Bald area, appearing to be persons seeking party supplies; the other, adjacent to the ski slopes, appearing to be a more serious search for electronic gear and property. These incidents represent the only two invasive events of at least a half dozen years – a remarkable record for seasonally occupied homes. Our single weekend security guard seemed to be everywhere at once over the winter, not only watching

over our property, but also alerting and helping many, many renters who (in spite of all cautionary alerts) insisted on attempting to negotiate the mountain in 2 wheel drive vehicles and paid an uncomfortable price. Many seasonal residents engage an independent contractor to oversee their homes during the months those homes are vacant, a precautionary measure that one may consider. Activities on Wolf Laurel are year round, and security and road maintenance services to residents continue throughout the off-season.

More and more lights in homes twinkle at night across the mountain. Remember to turn off outside lights, or preferably have them monitored by time sensitive and motion detector systems; the light curfew required by our covenants is 11PM. When the night sky is clear, the display of bright planets, constellations, and galaxies up there is unparalleled.

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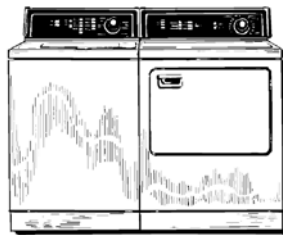
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Kristie Cody, Office Manager  
Cindy Tucker, Amenities Director



### Top of the Bald Newsletter

#### Editor

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

#### Publisher

Dancing Moon Print Solutions, Inc.  
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[lponder@dancingmoonprintsolutions.com](mailto:lponder@dancingmoonprintsolutions.com)

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# Village Amenities Programs & Events 2013

*There are so many great opportunities to get out and enjoy this season. The listing shown here is just the beginning and provides just the most basic information! So, be looking for updated event and program information when you stop by the WLPOA Community Center!*

## **Fitness Classes:**

- Muscle Toning/Stretching with Cathy Johnson each Monday & Friday, 9am in the Village Pavilion
- Tai Chi with Fred Buck each Monday & Thursday, 10am in the WLPOA Activities Center
- Water Fitness with Barby McQueen each Tuesday & Thursday, 3:30 in the Village Pool
- Walking Club with Lee Moeller each Wednesday, 9am starting at the Village Pavilion

## **Tennis Regularly Scheduled Play:**

- Women – Monday & Thursday 10am - noon
- Men – Wednesday & Friday 10am - noon
- Mixed Doubles – Saturday 10am - noon

## **Pickleball Regularly Scheduled Play (Women & Men):**

- Sunday afternoons; be looking for updates!

## **Friday Night Socials:**

- Every Friday at 5:30pm in the Village Pavilion; last Friday of each month will provide music
- BYOB & an appetizer to share

## **Monday Night Potlucks:**

- Every Monday at 5:30pm in the Village Pavilion

- Bring a potluck dish or two to share, your beverage and picnic supplies

## **Kid's Camp July 8 – 12. 9am – 3pm:**

- Old fashioned fun camp for kids ages 5-10; contact Cindy at 828-689-4089 or [cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com) for more information

## **July 5th Celebration of Independence Day:**

- Great music for listening and dancing in the Village Pavilion along with fun inflatables for the kids and concessions food for kids of all ages! Bring your picnic baskets, coolers, comfy blankets and flashlights. We'll have our fantastic fireworks display at dark!

## **Wolf Laurel Wandering Ladies:**

- Four great excursions planned as of this writing - Blowing Rock, Altapass, Black Mountain & an Asheville walking tour

## **Gourmet Cooking Classes with Michaelene Sanders (and many more of our most excellent cooks):**

- One class each month from June through September at various homes around the mountain

## **Saturday Night Music Series – June through August:**

- Joe Penland Concert July 13th, 7pm
- Who would YOU like to hear in

June and August? Be in touch!

## **Local Veggies and more from The Vegetable Lady, Kristie Cody:**

- Fridays from 10am – 1pm
- Fresh & local

## **Learn to Knit:**

- Introductory classes with Cathy Johnson in the WLPOA Community Center
- Advanced classes will be scheduled as the group progresses

## **Art Wall Openings and Shows – May through September:**

- Rebekah Shennan's photography will be shown in July
- Other months are open for our wonderful resident artists! Schedule with [cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com)

## **Craft/Art Classes:**

- Anything from fiber art such as wet felting (fun when it's hot) to painting classes

## **Educational Events & Demonstrations:**

- American Chestnut Society Presentation
- Wildlife Education Programs
- Pottery Demonstration

Again, more information to come on all of these programs and events, so be looking for updates in The

Top of The Bald, on the WLPOA  
Website: wolflaurelpoa.com and at  
the WLPOA Community Center!

If you would like to talk with any  
of the wonderful folks volunteering  
their time and talent on the  
Amenities Committee, please feel  
free to contact us We'd love to  
hear your ideas!

**Earlene Shofi**  
earlenes@frontier.com

**Cathy Johnson**  
cathyjohnson@verizon.net

**Barby McQueen**  
bmcqueen05@frontier.com

**David Schmidt**  
schm781@yahoo.com

**George Shennan**  
gshennan@earthlink.net

**Cindy Tucker**  
cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com



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## July 2013 INDEPENDENCE DAY+ in Wolf Laurel

By Cathy Johnson and Earlene Shofi

**FUN ~ FIREWORKS ~ FOOD  
~ MUSIC for a TWO DAY  
CELEBRATION**

The Wolf Laurel Property Owners  
Association and Wolf Laurel  
Country Club are joining forces for  
our country's 237th Independence  
day, 4th of July Celebration. This will  
be the first time that WLCC and  
WLPOA have planned a joint event,  
open to All Wolf Laurel Residents.

Here's a sampling of the planned  
activities.

July 4th: The WLCC will kick off  
their "A Red White and Blue Grass  
4th of July" festivities with a golf  
cart and doggie parade around  
3:30, "Wolf Laurel time." The  
Bailey Mountain Cloggers will then  
perform and a great Blue Grass  
Band will provide music for all to  
enjoy. The last event of the day will

be a dinner of pulled pork, bar-b-que  
chicken, hot dogs, slaw, potato salad  
and assorted other delicious treats.  
Snacks, beer, wine, and soft drinks  
will also be available. Participants  
who are not WLCC members may  
pay by cash, check, or credit card;  
the cost for dinner will be \$10.50  
for adults and \$6.50 for children  
under 10. Club members may  
charge to their club account. Once  
again, the event is open to ALL on

the mountain and tickets will be on sale for non-club members at the POA office and WLCC starting June 15th. JoAnn VanHying, the Club coordinator for this 4th of July event, can be contacted, if there are questions.

July 5th: The WLPOA will present the 2nd day of celebration activities, aptly named "The 4th on the 5th"! This event will begin with a pickle ball tournament and demonstration; then the celebration continues at the Pavilion with music, presented by the popular "Simple Folk" band -- dancing and singing will be mandatory! Kids' activities traditionally include face painting, those totally fun inflatables for

bouncing and climbing, the Ebbs Chapel fire truck for exploring; games and concessions, cotton candy, popcorn and who knows what additional surprises may be in store. Last, what we all wait for - FIREWORKS!! Always loud, smoky, and spectacular, this year's pyrotechnic display promises to be the best ever, as every year it gets better and better. Participants are encouraged to bring picnic baskets, chairs, blankets, and beverages of choice. There will be a drop off area available to stow all your supplies adjacent to the Village, since parking may be a short hike away. While we hope to lower last year's ticket price of \$15, that decision will be made when we know what

support we receive from the sale of sponsorships. More information will be available closer to the event.

As in 2012 sponsorships from both businesses and individuals for the WLPOA celebration are encouraged and welcomed. All support is greatly appreciated.

We are excited by the unified efforts of our two organizations, the WLPOA and WLCC, coming together for the first time in the spirit of community, and providing the opportunity for the best Independence Day celebration ever!

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The advertisement features a collection of antique furniture and objects. On the left is a large wooden chest of drawers with a white figurine on top. In the center is a tall, ornate wooden cabinet with glass doors and a mirror. To the right is a smaller wooden cabinet with a large, round, dark wooden object on top. A small wooden table with a decorative plate is in the foreground. The background is a textured, grey wall.

## RESTAURANT RAMBLINGS: Friday night on the town

Two days of fog, ¾" ice on the deck with 7" icicles on the railings on April 5 does not for fun make; trees droop with icy branches, and even the grass is slippery as Crisco. A big KABOOM in the middle of the night and morning reveals a tree on our lot, split in two. Last week we had 14 inches of snow and spent 4 days, stuck in the house. Will the winter never end?

By noon two days later the sun was struggling through the fog, and ice was falling from the trees. At 3PM the sun broke through, and we finally split the mountain, heading giddily for Asheville. A Friday night on the town seemed just what the doctor ordered! I strongly recommend that, even if you've not been driven stir crazy by an interminably rugged Wolf Laurel winter, a Friday night, preferably a first Friday of the month, spent in downtown Asheville will revive not

only your gastronomic juices, but also your faith in the joy of being alive and the eternal changing of the seasons. Maybe WL is still in the doldrums, but spring has definitely sprung in Asheville!

On Fridays downtown is bumper to bumper before 5PM. First we attended an art opening, as the first weekend of each spring month an Artwalk is a fixture in downtown Asheville. The Bradford pear are budding and the streets are blooming with all manner of clothing on all manner of bodies: the to-the-waist dread-locked old hippy, dripping with jewel-embroidered headdress and to the ground patchwork caftan (a samurai sword hanging on the left and a hand woven purse on the right) is a fixture on Haywood and Wall Street. He joined the drum circle in Pritchard Park with his tiny drum and cowbells (an iconic

happening each Friday night, weather permitting); even if you were born in a Brooks Brothers suit or with Mikimoto pearls around your neck, this event is PYE (part of your education). Just 30 minutes watching this gathering - 2 astoundingly flexible hula hoop artist/females, 6 to 10 assortedly talented drummers with assorted African drums, a long skirted young mom dancing in the courtyard with her tiny baby, and a yuppy-type dad awkwardly following the moves of his preteen daughter - and one observes the eclectic nature of a vibrant Asheville culture. It is a not-to-be-missed experience.

We were hungry. The culinary offerings in downtown Asheville are enough to cause enormous confusion, even among sophisticated gourmands. We do regret the closing of Bistro 1896 on the square; it was one of our favorites. A new burger place, Farm Burger, had been



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# UPPER LAUREL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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**Saturday, April 27th at 5PM**

at the Upper Laurel Community Center

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We will be  
serving until  
we run out of food.**



featured in the Citizen-Times, but we decided to try Strada, a regional Italian restaurant opened over the winter, owned by the former Fiore's chef/owner. On lower Broadway across from the groovy Tressa live music bar, Strada is a restaurant (like Bouchon) that does not require reservations. The atmosphere is informal, lively, crowded, and full of the most scrumptious aromas of garlic and herbs and baking bread; we were seated at a front window, where we could people and vehicle watch. A shared salad, "The Gabriel,"

with arugula, roasted prosciutto, capers, etc. etc.; shrimp and scallops Sorentino (John had a marsala); a large piece of Italian lemon cake (which we could not finish!); and glasses of an excellent Pinot Gris – we walked to our car, feeling more than satiated. A promising pink and gold sunset accompanied our ride home.

We enjoyed a bonus night out on the following Sunday with good friends at Rezaz. This favorite (do you remember my writing about

the consummate waiter, Mithren?) Biltmore Village restaurant has been holding special Sunday night dinners through the winter, featuring a variety of Mediterranean and Mideastern menus. This Sunday night dinner was Portuguese. Reservations (particularly if you want to experience Mithren's expertise) are strongly advised. An incredible gastronomic experience.

Welcome back to the mountain!

# Wolf Laurel Homes



316 Wolf Laurel Road  
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Jane Wallin

Phone: 828-689-4422

Cell: 828-206-9653

Fax: 828-689-4477



**231 BEE TREE**

1,800 Sq. Ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 bath. Must see this newer log cabin in the woods with winter views and summer shade!

MLS# 533019

**\$319,000**



**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**



**68 UNAKITE**

3,518 Sq. Ft., 5 bedrooms, 3 and a half bath on a 2.36 acre lot. Wonderful log home. A must see!

MLS# Coming Soon

**\$550,000**



**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

**\$565,000**



**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**



**257 LOOKOUT DRIVE**

4,766 Sq. Ft., 3 bedrooms, 4 baths on .7 acre. Panoramic Views, upscale home with gourmet kitchen.

MLS# 488331

**\$775,000**



**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

**\$199,900**



**136 GROUSE THICKET**

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

MLS# 526806

**\$350,000**



**17 GREER WAY**

1,482 Sq. Ft., 2 bedrooms, 2 and a half baths on .59 acres with a stream. Great covered porch. This is a wonderful mountain get-away!

MLS# 535405

**\$199,000**



**326 EL MINER**

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

MLS# 520665

**\$549,000**



**231 SARVIS LANE**

1,512 Sq. Ft., 3 bedrooms, 2 baths on .5 acre. Newly renovated with new kitchen. Walk to ski slopes!

MLS# 522782

**\$199,000**



**44 SOUTHGATE**

1,296 Sq. Ft., 2 bedrooms, 2 bath, .55 acre lot. Beautiful antique log home!

MLS# 468410

**\$199,000**



**263 LUCAS LANE**

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

MLS# 519462

**\$425,000**

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