

Top of the Bald

Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association



Office: 828-689-9229

Summer 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Earlene Shofi

Recently the WLPOA sent out an email requesting that those who are interested in a Board position respond to that email. We did have a good response; however, most who answered felt that they could not devote enough time to holding a Board position due to jobs or other commitments. All who responded were well qualified and would be wonderful additions to our POA Board. There are so many ways to contribute to the enhancement of the community other than serving on the Board and most do not require devoting a great deal of your time. Here are a few suggestions for getting involved in our community and enhancing the WL experience. Not only will you be assisting the POA, you'll also get to meet new folks on the mountain, always an enjoyable experience.

The **Village Club**, chaired by Joanne Wit, has a large group of permanent committee members, but if there is a singular activity or event you are particularly interested in, you would be most welcome to work on that event. You do not have to be on the VC committee. August brings the "Woofminster" dog friendly, totally fun event on Sunday, the 6th, which benefits the Yancey County Animal Shelter. If you've had experience

with judging canine shows or simply want to have some fun helping our Chair Lori Wyman Macauley, you will certainly be appreciated.

The **Facilities Committee** - now this is a really meaty one! The entire Village grounds and the Barn are their responsibility. Look around the Village, there is always a project going on. Terry Ranostaj is Chair, however being currently gainfully employed, he must at times rely heavily on his committee. Fred Tygart, our VP and committee member can often be seen somewhere in the Village directing repairs, (we don't allow him to wear his judicial robe as it could be considered hazardous attire). If you have engineering, landscaping or any experience that could be used in keeping the wheels turning, please contact Cindy in the POA office or any member of the committee. Speaking of wheels turning, we are currently looking for an engineer experienced in repair and maintenance of water wheels; ours is in need of repair. There does seem to be a scarcity of water wheel experts, as we've not had much success in our search.

Another way to contribute a little time is to help by keeping items in the **mail cabin** orderly so that packages may be found and picked up with ease. Carol Krueger has been coordinating the weekly volunteers, who've made finding

Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association

an oversized envelope or package much easier. We have many volunteers, but as we go through the season, more would be helpful so that no one finds it burdensome. Every time I volunteer in the mail cabin, I meet someone new: maybe we should have a mail cabin party, as most of the other categories for parties have already been covered.

We have a wonderful **library** in the Barn, all POA members can just go in, check out a book or two: take as long as you want to finish that good read and no late fees. Yvonne Carignan is our very genial librarian; she would certainly be appreciative of any help moving and categorizing books. Yvonne also donates books that are duplicates or those we cannot use to various other non-profit organizations.

These are just a few suggestions for participating in our Wolf Laurel community. If you have questions, just drop by our WLPOA Barn in the Village and Cindy or one of our staff members will be happy to assist you.

The WLPOA general meeting and Board of Directors election was held Saturday, July 29, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the Pavilion. For information about the meeting, please talk with one of our Board members or refer to the WLPOA web site <http://www.wolflaurelpoa.com>.

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"AND THE ROCKETS RED GLARE"

Earlene Shofi

We can all agree it seems to be predictable that the Independence Day celebration in the Village will include some precipitation and it certainly did. The last blast of rain came shortly before the fireworks were to begin: then as if on cue, the skies cleared and festivities continued. The Wolf Laurel Community experienced another spectacular display of fireworks, thanks to the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department and the Ebbs Chapel Volunteer Fire Department. We are so fortunate to witness this brilliant display from so very up close: they certainly are experts



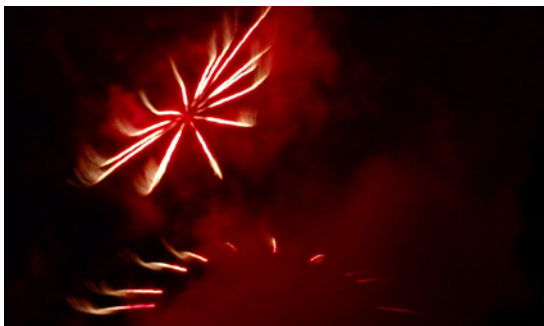
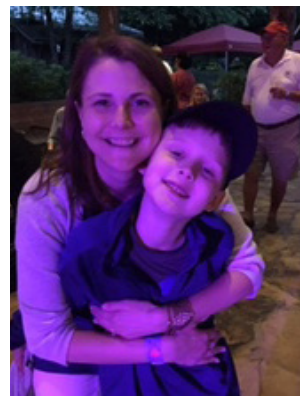
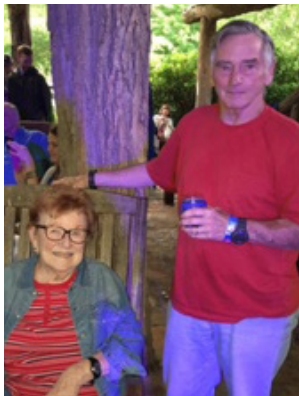
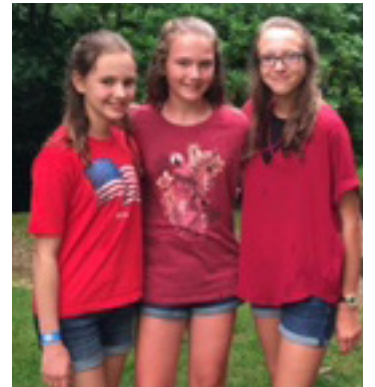
at lighting up the sky! The band, "The Super 60's", made waiting for the rain to dissipate a truly fun and enjoyable experience. Everyone was either dancing, singing or clapping to

the music and to everyone's delight they agreed to keep playing until the rain stopped. The children seemed totally unconcerned about the inclement weather; they were either dancing or snacking on cotton candy, snow cones or popcorn and after all, the moisture on the inflatable slide just made them fly down faster.

We sincerely thank all who made contributions, large and small, to make this celebration of our country's 241st Independence Day, so successful. We would not be able to continue this great Wolf Laurel tradition of celebrating with family and friends without the generous support of our Community. The sponsors are acknowledged in this edition of the TOB. We also thank those of you who



planned to watch from your own homes or other areas and yet purchased tickets in support of the POA. We are a great community!



2017 WLPOA INDEPENDENCE DAY VILLAGE CELEBRATION

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We are pleased to welcome the new members below that have joined WLPOA since publication of the Spring TOP OF THE BALD. Please seek them out and let them know of all the exciting opportunities WLPOA has to offer, and invite them to an upcoming event.

Village Club

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A MESSAGE FROM WOLF LAUREL ROAD MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT JOHN BENEKE

By the time you read this, the WLRMS Election should be well underway. The WLRMS Nominating Committee will have done its work and put forth six excellent candidates who are willing to devote their time and talents to ensure that WLRMS, working on behalf of Wolf Laurel property owners, meets the high standards of its Mission Statement:

The Wolf Laurel Road Maintenance and Security Homeowner's Association is responsible for safeguarding and improving the roads, security, safety, infrastructure, neighborhood architectural standards, natural resources and quality of life of its property owners. WLRMS Officers, Board and Committee Members, and Staff, accept this responsibility, and pledge to continue to discharge their duties for the Wolf Laurel community with a robust and renewed commitment to integrity, fiscal responsibility and transparency.

The WLRMS Board of Directors works to support these aspirations every day. Some of the ongoing activities and concerns of WLRMS include the following:

- The 2015 Amended and Restated Declaration of Protective Covenants, Restrictions and Reservations are the law of the land in Wolf Laurel. The Board recently voted to take a strong position on supporting and enforcing the covenants. They protect the property values, safety, culture and quality of life in Wolf Laurel, and every property owner in the community is legally obligated to conform to them. I know I can count on you to honor your commitment to maintaining our high community standards as defined by the 2015 Covenants.
- The Board is continually working to be more open and transparent. As you know, our regular monthly Board meetings are open to all, and are held on the 3rd Friday of each month year-round. Please attend; we want to hear from you. WLRMS is hosting Town Hall Meetings this year on various topics, including Long-Range Plan Discussion (June 10), WLRMS Meet the Board Candidates (July 22), Roads, Infrastructure and Fire Safety (Aug. 12) and Covenants (Sept. 9). We thank the Wolf Laurel POA Board for allowing us to use the Village Pavilion for these important meetings. Our Communication and Community Relations Committee sends out email communiqués on a regular basis and has taken surveys to help the Board understand stakeholder sentiment on important issues. There are also regular postings on our redesigned, easy-to-use website (WolfLaurelRoadsandSecurity.com) of the Minutes of our meetings, Financial Reports, news releases, information and forms of all kinds.
- Security has added additional staff in the office and on Safety Patrol to better serve the safety and security of our residents.
- The road crew continues to do an amazing job of maintaining and improving our roads. They work long hours year-round, sometimes in the worst possible circumstances, to ensure that our roads remain open during weather events so that they are passable not only to residents, but also to emergency services. They are great at stretching our fiscal resources to meet their responsibilities to Wolf Laurel's infrastructure and maintenance requirements.
- The Nov. 5-29, 2016 wildfire in Lake Lure showed us how quickly a mountain community such as Wolf Laurel could lose more than 7,000 acres of woodland, while endangering the public, area homes and businesses, and 177 emergency personnel at a cost of \$7.65 million. In order to better prepare for wildfires, we are working to secure additional water sources and encouraging residents to be mindful of the areas surrounding their homes by clearing brush, etc., under the guidelines at NFPA.org. We also called on all Wolf Laurel stakeholders to register with our local emergency notification service. This is free, and can be accessed at MadisonCountyNC.org, then scrolling down to the WENS box. If you haven't registered, put down this copy of Top of the Bald right now and register!

- We continue to work with the Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association to resolve the issue of the motel property's Waste Water Treatment Plant and not only the cost of operation, but also the liabilities involved in owning and operating it.
- This year WLRMS launched a project to draw all community stakeholders into building a brighter future for our community with its "Three Pillars of Progress" Long Range Plan.

To recap, here are the Three Pillars:

1. Development of a long-range WLRMS capital plan to ensure adequate resources to safeguard, maintain, improve, and grow the community.
2. Development and implementation of a comprehensive, community-wide Wolf Laurel marketing plan that will dramatically improve Wolf Laurel's positioning as a residential and vacation community.
3. A recombination/merger of WLRMS, the Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association and participating community homeowners associations from the current inefficient and needlessly complex model into one less expensive, cohesive, more efficient and effective organization that respects and fairly reflects the voices of all community stakeholders.

The first pillar is the sole responsibility of WLRMS. Pillars two and three will require the cooperation of the entire Wolf Laurel Community and will benefit all.

The Pillars have been endorsed and supported by the WLRMS Board. In addition, at the June 10 Town Hall Meeting on the topic of the Long Range Plan, we received positive feedback and endorsements from Presidents Barry Vaughn of Blue Mountain HOA, Earlene Shofi of the WLPOA and Seth Shimansky of Mountainside Townhomes. Ken Faliero, President of Wolf Laurel Country Club, is a member of the WLRMS Long Range Planning Committee and endorses the Pillars as well. So we're off to a good start.

However, to be crystal clear, WLRMS's work on points two and three of the Three Pillars is only a spark for the community at large. We've identified what we see are critical needs for the community. But our role is only as facilitator. We want to pull community members into a redesign of the community that reflects modern demands and addresses new opportunities while politely respecting and reflecting all the voices of all the Wolf Laurel constituencies. The goal is total community improvement for all. Help us get there.

The future of Wolf Laurel is now in the hands of the property HOAs and Wolf Laurel Country Club. We must work together. On a personal note, as the only remaining appointed director, I have decided that it is time to "retire" again.

The Board of WLRMS will now be comprised of members entirely elected by you, the community. They need your support. You may not always agree with their policies and actions but they're responsible for supporting the Mission Statement, respectfully interacting with you and showing decisive leadership. You should hold them accountable. Get involved by attending the Town Hall Meetings and regular monthly Board meetings, by serving on a standing committee or simply volunteering your expertise to help the community. Those who commit their time and talents to our community are critical to the community's success.

I strongly encourage you to get involved in brightening the future of Wolf Laurel. The community needs you. And you have an important investment in Wolf Laurel that deserves to be protected and grown. There are many opportunities to pitch in. I hope you'll speak with any Board member about how to get involved with WLRMS.

I wish WLRMS, the Board of Directors, the staff, our committee members, volunteers and the entire community a productive and wonderful future. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve.

Sincerely,
John Beneke - July, 2017

MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE IN THE WLPOA COMMUNITY CENTER

The WLPOA has a number of cool, useful items available for purchase:



First, our Wolf Laurel hats with a (registered!) Wolf/Moon logo! In two colors: sleek black color with silver embroidered wolf/moon or a bone color with a forest green wolf moon logo. These hats are adjustable to fit most folks and are made of organic cotton! Only \$15!

Our wonderful book of the Wolf Laurel area history – “In The Shadow of Big Bald” is available for only \$10.

For those who brought their tennis racquets, but forgot their can of tennis balls, we can supply at cost for only \$3.

And for those in our Village Club Yoga Classes with John Shoemaker, Tai Chi with Fred Buck, or our monthly Relaxation

& Meditation Class with Larry Veatch, we have mats and bolsters available at cost for only \$20 each! Please see a Village Club Staff member to purchase these items. And, if you can, please bring exact amount in either cash or check. We keep as much on hand as we can, but can easily reorder the various items when supplies run low or run out. All funds will support our Community Center!

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, *Larry & Patricia Veatch*

Patricia grew up in Michigan and obtained a BS in Fine Art with a sculptural emphasis. She made jewelry for several years, traveling throughout Florida selling in the Art Fair Circuit. She stopped when our first son was born. We had two precious boys and she diligently homeschooled them until they were ready to attend public school (starting in the 8th and 10th grades). They both subsequently attended college, and both continue to live in Gainesville. After our youngest son started attending public school, she turned her attention to a new passion – painting. She has preferred portraiture in oil paint but hopes to paint more landscapes soon.



Larry – I was born in a *small* town in middle Georgia (the state, a couple of hours south of here) and grew up in another *small* town in middle Georgia in a *small* family with a *small* dog. I was sort of *small* and attended a *small* school. I spent time playing and participating in sports, and only a *small* bit of time doing school work. I attended a *small* college in a *small* town in SC. (another state just south of here). I obtained a BS in Psychology and then an MS degree in Psychology at Valdosta State University, which was at the time called Valdosta State College (a *small* institution). After working in Georgia and NC for a few years, I moved to Florida (also south of here). There I met my lovely wife, Patricia. We had two boys, who she home schooled for several years, while I worked with mentally, emotionally, and behaviorally impaired students and felons (not my own children). We lived in and near Gainesville for approximately 30 years.

We visited NC a few times and decided that when I retired, we would move to NC. In 2013 we moved to Hendersonville as a place to live while we researched the areas around Asheville; Patricia was desirous of being near an art community. After much research of

locations and homes from Waynesville to Barnardsville, we looked north and found Wolf Laurel. I wanted a quiet place and Patricia wanted a place with a view – we were able to find both on Lucas Lane; and we found some really nice people after moving here in June last year. It is also a good place to get fresh air and to engage in sports that I like, such as running, biking, and hiking.

I also hope to also

do more kayaking, golfing, skiing. After moving to NC, I discovered pickleball. I participate in obstacle runs, duathlons, and triathlons. I enjoy yoga, Tai Chi, and Qigong activity. I am also conducting a class at the Village Club to help others learn relaxation and meditation techniques. I am still a licensed Counselor in Florida and NC and am also a Certified Life Coach.

We have so enjoyed the Wolf Laurel location and community. We have enjoyed the scenery, the weather, the critters, and the people. We have been here full time and celebrated our 28th anniversary here in June. Even the winter was not too bad (this year). We have a wonderful view from our deck and feel blessed to enjoy watching the deer, turkeys and especially the sunsets.

Larry Veatch, MS, MBA, LMHC, LPC, NBCC, NCC
(or just “Lucas Lane Larry”)

2017 VILLAGE WOLF CUBS KIDS CAMP!!!

Cindy Tucker

I've always loved The Village Wolf Cubs Kids Camp and our 2017 Camp did NOT disappoint! This was a BIG week of fun for our 41(!) Campers, 8 Counselors, 2 Assistants and me. The kids were absolutely amazing and we all had a blast! What always seems to me as a fun, kind of organized chaos suits the kids to a T! Every day, we offered some 'big group activities', ranging from a daily walk to feed the rainbow trout in the Village Pond and a nice short hike to the upper Village Lane Observation Pond. And, yes, we howled a lot! Also, Science Day really brought the group together to compete in Egg Drop (using basic materials to protect a raw egg that gets dropped from about 12 feet to the plastic covered floor in the Pavilion), enjoy the thrill of Bottle Rockets and making Slime! The Campers worked in groups to get their t-shirts tie dyed and throughout the week, we all got to know each other a little better. We had a couple of bumps, scraped knees, and bee stings, but the Campers were tough and endured my first aid techniques – then, were back at it in no time.

A special treat this year was to have Nina Fischesser with the Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute back at Camp on Tuesday. Nina brought her Wildlife program

to our Camp years ago, but stays so busy with her rescue operations, she's been hard to schedule in



recent years. The Campers this year absolutely LOVED her presentation and lots of families and other mountain residents were able to attend. (Note to wildlife lovers: if you have some spare cash floating around, please consider a donation

to the Institute or become a member of Friends of Wildlife – a program through Lee-McRae College that supports the Wildlife Rehab Center Nina founded there. Information is available at the WLPOA Community Center, including a "Needs & Wish List".)

All the feedback I've gotten from Campers, Parents and Grandparents has been wonderful. It has something



to do with that 'organized chaos' I mentioned earlier. One of the most successful components of our Camp is to give the kids the freedom to do activities THEY select for a

portion of each day. This could be swimming, stream stomp, enjoying playground time, sports (mostly kickball & basketball), and TONS of various craft options. The imagination of our Campers was endless and ignited so much creativity. We had our first International Space Wolf Station, endless designs with craft materials and some very tired crafting Counselors

Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association

at the end of each day. So, the campers had maximum fun but many were a bit sad at the end of the week when they realized Camp was coming to an end.

A big thanks to our amazing Counselors and Assistants! Counselors: Mark Tucker, Pam Kroswek, Kate Martin, Elliott Durner, Elke Spirakis, Sarah Tucker,

Kelly Mayfield and Ken Lugo – 5 are teachers/coaches in Buncombe County Schools. Assistants: Molly Fisher and Tyler Redden. But most of all, thanks to all the families who trusted us to take care of their kids and grands. It was wonderful week here in The Village!



Front Row: Kate Martin, Sarah Tucker, Pam Kroswek, Molly Fisher

Second Row: Elliott Durner, Ken Lugo, Kelley Mayfield, Mark Tucker & Elke Spirakis. Not pictured-Tyler Redden.

WLPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jim Landry, Emeritus
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Ronnie Rice, Office Manager
Cindy Tucker, Village Club Director



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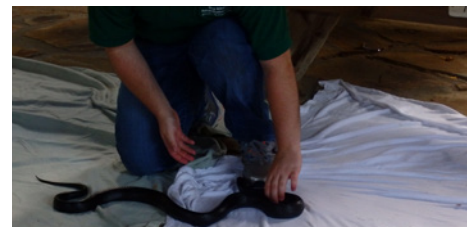
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Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association



WOOFMINSTER 2017

Lori Wyman Macaulay

It's that time of the year again: Our 2nd annual WOOFMINSTER event. What is Woofminster? It's our annual event that includes our four-legged family members as well. It's an afternoon of fun and activities that involve our dogs and their owners. We will have lots of games and prizes. Here are some of them so you can start working with your dogs now. My personal favorite is Musical Chairs, but with a pet friendly flair. The music starts and all owners and their dogs start to walk around in a circle. When the music stops, all dogs have to sit. The last dog to sit is out. And so goes the game until the last dog is left. We will also have a dog race and a talent contest. Start working with your dogs now. You are being given plenty of time to practice!!

This event will be held on Sunday, August 6th, 2017 at 5 PM down on the basketball courts at The Village Club and is open to everyone on the mountain. There will be a suggested donation of \$10 for all dogs entering this event and all proceeds will be donated to the Yancey County Animal Shelter. Even if you don't have a furry family member, please feel free to just come down and watch the fun! (and help out the Yancey County Animal Shelter as well)

Last year this event was so well attended. If you'd like to enter your dog in our event this year, please email me, Lori, at wycast@aol.com or Cindy at cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com to register.

We will have water, treats and prizes for our 4-legged friends and our 2-legged friends will be provided with soft drinks and water. Plus you are welcome to BYOB.

Don't miss out! This is THE Not-To-Be-Missed event of the season!!!



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VILLAGE CLUB PROGRAMS AND EVENTS TO PLAN ON!

We have many wonderful ongoing programs to take advantage of! New info/changes are shown in red. The majority of these programs and events are planned for our Village Club Members only, but if you are not a member, we have a special event – Woofminster – scheduled on August 6th, 5 pm that is open to all on the mountain. Read more about this in the listing below under Special Events. For updates see the [Village Club Page](http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/556ff9_babf1eb934ae45239d1767b6b103ec63.pdf) where the hyperlink is http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/556ff9_babf1eb934ae45239d1767b6b103ec63.pdf.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

Tai Chi with Fred Buck – Monday & Thursday at 10 am in Village Activity Center or in outside locations in the beautiful sunshine. Bring your water bottle and an exercise mat. This wonderful class is starting its 11th season! A BIG thank you to Fred for all the years of bringing this therapeutic, peaceful class to The Village!

Yoga with John Shoemaker – new this season! – Mondays at 2 pm, a Yin & Restorative class; Wednesdays at 2 pm, an Active Class. We will be selling a small number of new yoga mats & bolsters at cost for the class if you don't have these recommended props. Bring your water bottle, yoga mat & bolster (if you do have them). This class will take place in the Village Activity Center.

Water Fitness – Tuesdays & Thursdays at 1pm. Led by Barbby McQueen with assistance from Lee Moeller and Larae Weaver. All workout equipment provided. Bring your sunscreen and get ready to have a great time and a very beneficial workout.

Pickleball – Wednesdays and Fridays at 10am; Sundays at 3pm. If you haven't played this great sport before, contact George Shennan (gshennan@earthlink.net) and he will arrange a time before regularly scheduled play on Sunday to give you a chance to learn the game. The lower tennis court is reserved for pickleball only on the days/times specified above.

Walking Club – Coordinated by Jeri Magg. Contact cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com to get on the list for info about the next opportunities.

Tennis: Attention all Village Club Tennis Players! Michaelene Sanders is putting together a list of players that are interested in establishing a weekly schedule to play. Please contact Michaelene and she will add you to the list. Each week, a list will be sent to those who are interested and all you need to do is e-mail back that you will be able to play and you'll get a reminder the night before. You can reach Michaelene at mros725@gmail.com.

Relaxation and Meditation Class with Larry Veatch – new this season! Meet in the Activity Center (lower area of the WLPOA Community Center) once a month on the last Thursday of each month at 11am (following Tai Chi). Bring

a cushion (or mat if you prefer the lotus position instead of a chair). Relaxation and meditation provide many important health benefits! Remaining dates on Thursdays, August thru October, are: August 31st, September 28th and October 26th.

Book Club – led by Karen Gerry. On August 3 at 2:15pm, the group will discuss "A Gentleman in Moscow", by Amor Towles, about a man who is ordered to spend the rest of his life inside a luxury hotel – discussion to be led by Frenchie Richards. On Thursday, August 31 at 2:15 pm the group will review "Where'd You Go Bernadette" by Maria Semple, a modern-day comic caper about a woman's life – discussion to be led by Harriet Hill. September book will be announced soon.

Get In "The Loop"! - new this season! Every Friday 2pm - 4pm in the WLPOA Community Center. Calling all Village Club yarnies and thread aficionados to meet for a new fiber arts group. All experience levels are welcome! To share ideas, please contact Katie Demere Mahowald at katiedemere@gmail.com and to sign up to 'Get in the Loop', contact cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com.

Friday Night Socials – every Friday at 6 pm in the Village Pavilion unless otherwise announced. Free! BYOB & appetizer to share. If it's chilly, we'll have a cozy fire in the Pavilion. In extreme weather, this may be moved to the WLPOA Community Center. Bingo with Fred Tygart will take place on the last Friday of each month unless otherwise announced! The Village Club provides plates, etc., mixers, ice and a few snacks for Bingo time. Come enjoy this great social gathering!

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

Dining Out With Friends – Friends can meet to carpool at the WLPOA Community Center, or meet us at the restaurant at the time shown below.

August: Thursday, August 17th, 1pm – Luella's Bar-B-Que, 501 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville. Southern style barbeque plus a wider menu.

September: Thursday, September 7th, 1pm – Tupelo Honey, 12 College Street, Asheville. Known for its Southern cuisine.

Mystery Dinner – new this season! – a new event to be introduced this summer! Two dates remain: Wednesday, August 16th, will feature ‘Mexicana’ as the theme; Wednesday, September 13, will be ‘Viva Italia’ night!
Sign up in advance to host at your home (and provide the main dish), or to bring appetizer, salad/side or dessert. BYOB. We’ll randomly put groups of 7-10 people together to complete the meal and you’ll hopefully get to meet new friends in the process. The host at each home will contact those selected to attend dinner at their home to give you directions. This will be a really fun way to meet and eat! Be looking for the email invitations for each of these dates with a sign up sheet attached.

Art Class with Gail Ford & Cassandra Bradham – new this season! Monday, August 7th, 9am in the Village Pavilion. You will love this cool craft – Pine Cone Zinnias! So, if you live along the coast of NC, SC, GA or FL and can bring your own long-leaf pine cones (at least 25 per person) that’s great! We will have some pine cones available here but bring your own if you can and also bring gloves and a pair of wire clippers. \$30 per person. If you would like to make a wreath, bring a straw wreath form. Contact cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com to sign up.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

Community Art Wall 2017 – Stop by the WLPOA Community Center to see the art each month and to support our local mountain artists! Bring your checkbook or cash with you (all paid directly to the artists)!

August: Carol Kinsey’s paintings and cards!

September: Patricia Veatch’s paintings!

October: Gwynne Beneke’s paintings!

CPR/AED Class with Jim Deloatch – We will be scheduling at least one class this season. The knowledge gained could help you save someone’s life – so do not miss the opportunity! Look for more info soon!

Personal Safety/Self Defense Tactics with Jim Deloatch
Be aware & protect yourself! This class will help you consider the most important things you need to know

to help keep yourself safe. Look for more info soon!

Fly Fishing classes with Joey Leonard – Joey will teach you some interesting background/history of this great sport and will assist you at the Village Trout Pond to help you learn or improve your skills. Look for more info soon!

WL Wandering Ladies: If interested, contact cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com to sign up.

Sept – Tryon Equestrian Center – huge complex with many opportunities to see horses, competition, have lunch, etc. 1.5 hour drive to and from. Barby McQueen will be leading this great trip. More info to come!

Sept – Literary Festival in Burnsville. Many local authors. Will have lunch at a local restaurant. Jeri Magg will lead this trip. More info to come!

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Dog Days of Summer – Friday, August 4th 6pm.
Ticketed event with food provided – hot dogs, sides and desserts. BYOB. More info to come.

2nd Annual Woofminster – Sunday, August 6, 5pm: Bring your pooch (or poodles) on a leash to compete in lots of fun doggie events! We will have awards and doggie treats, and cool water for every two or four-legged animal. Last year, we had lots of poodles and proud owners attend and all had a great time. A wonderful event! Don’t miss it! We’d like to have an idea of how many poodles and owner might be able to attend, so please contact cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com to sign up. We would like to have participants donate \$10 per pooch entered and all funds at the end of the day will go to the Yancey County Animal Shelter (a no-kill shelter right here local!). All welcome!

Labor Day Weekend Oyster Roast – Sunday, September 3rd, 6pm. \$25 per person, additional oysters (min 6) at \$1 each. BYOB. Tickets will go on sale in early August – so be looking for more details to come. This has been a sell-out each year so you’ll want to get your ticket in advance. Look for future announcements!

WLPOA Community Center & Village Club Hours of Operation - 2017 – 7 days a week:

	<u>WLPOA Community Center</u>	<u>Pool</u>
August:	8:30am – 8:30pm	10am – 8pm
September:	8:30am – 7:30pm	10am – 7pm
October:	8:30am – 6:30pm	closed

RESTAURANT RAMBLINGS: cooking and the new possibilities

Gwynne Beneke

Several days ago Amazon announced a new acquisition to its growing presence in our lives. WHOLE FOODS has been purchased for 37 billion dollars! Given the growth

of online food purchases and delivery, we may expect significant changes in the options of how we purchase food. With that in mind I decided to sign up for one of the number of food-to-your-door-with-recipes services that I'd seen advertised recently. Good reviews have been noted for Blue Apron, PeaPod and Fresh Direct. A special offer popped up on my email for Hello Fresh (6 meals for \$29.95) and I bit! What was promised: 6 complete meals with recipes for two people. What arrived: 6 more-or-less-but-not-so-fresh complete meals with recipes. There were catfish, chicken, and ground beef dishes with one side each included. My husband is NOT interested in learning to cook anything but breakfast and popcorn, but I thought I could persuade him to participate in this experiment because he's a really good sport. Deciding to do the catfish first, I laid out the well illustrated recipe card and we unpacked the ingredients together. The fish looked and smelled fresh, but the broccoli for the side looked sad – spots of brown, a little limp. We proceeded, as I convinced John that he needed to know how to be proficient, just in case I became "indisposed" in one way or other at some distant point in the future. I laid it on thick with guilty overtones. He really did cook the entire meal! It was satisfactory, but definitely not haute cuisine. We aborted the experiment for the other 4 meals; the recipes were clear but uninspired and we discarded the vegetables; the chicken and beef were used for our favorites. My assessment? Might be good for a gift to your bachelor grandson, who wants to learn some basic tools and can follow instructions. Customer service lamented the marginal veggies and wanted to give me a discount on future orders. I declined. There are those who SWEAR by Blue Apron, however.

We lamented the sale of Rezaz by its former owner but were happy to find that he is partnering on a "grab and go" middle eastern spot in the Grove Arcade, BABA NAHM. If you want a quick lunch, this walk-in on the east side is a definite go-to; service is super quick, portions ample, variety impressive. I had the daily special pita, lamb meatballs, while John had the chicken shawarma pita. We shared a tabouleh salad

and took the carton home, still almost full! The baklava looked yummy, but we abstained. If you were a fan of the former Rezaz and like middle eastern street food, you will walk away from BABA NAHM happy.

I have written about many of the up scale restaurants in Asheville, but only visited BULL AND BEGGAR this week. Established in a remodeled warehouse in the River Arts District, the restaurant's website seemed to promise an elegant dining experience: the menu was interesting, innovative and pricey. Beware! If you go, expect a rough and unpaved dirt parking lot off the beaten path. Open for both lunch and dinner, we chose dinner and invited another foodie-friends couple. Upon arriving, we found the ambience did not disappoint, and we were seated early for our reservation on a Thursday. The restaurant was not crowded and menus were already set on the table as placemats. Caveat: when we go to a "good" restaurant, we expect the service to match the quality and cost of our meal – it's a critical part of the whole experience. The service at BULL AND BEGGAR was no better than that at APPLEBY'S. I state that firmly. Although the food definitely lived up to that of the best in Asheville, the lack of attention and "casual" approach of the waitress left us wondering if she really deserved the 20% tip we gave her at the end of the meal.

The wine list is extensive and exclusively European; however, my first choice of a bottle of chenin blanc was "unavailable" and there was only a split of my second choice in the cellar. This was discovered after considerable lag time between ordering and serving. Finally I decided on a chardonnay that was average but overpriced. We ordered two hors d'oeuvres for the table: the duck liver pate and a charcuterie board. Both were well prepared and delicious in their variety. There was one plus: we were able to share our entrées. There were no specials. Both couples ordered the "loup de mer," a Mediterranean sea bass from the menu, which arrived at table whole, skin and head and tail all intact. It was a beautiful picture! However, the plates were plopped down and the waitress disappeared after placing small separate plates on the table. We were left to fend for ourselves in de-heading, de-boning and dividing what was a substantial fish – no plate for the detritus of inedible parts! After requesting such, an extra plate was provided. Luckily, my father was a devout fisherman and I learned to de-bone and

de-head a rainbow trout as a pre-teen, and I actually enjoy having the opportunity to practice this skill. But that is not everyone's experience, and not to offer any assistance at table with this considerable fish was a serious service faux-pas. The accompanying watercress salad was well dressed with capers and vinaigrette but was very stemmy. What do you do with a four inch stem? (John ate his.) The aioli sauce was fresh and complimented the succulent flesh of the fish.

A warm cherry clafoutti, topped with a bit of ice cream shared by all, finished the meal, but the wait as it was

prepared and served left us with two bites of sweet, but a sour feeling of something missing. We all agreed that good service (much less outstanding service) is an absolutely necessary component of a satisfactory dining experience. So if you choose to go to this restaurant, be advised of its possible limitations in service.

There is a small Portuguese restaurant on Hendersonville Road, recommended by SOUTHERN LIVING, that we will review in the fall TOB. Do you have suggestions for other venues we could visit?

Happy summer!

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WOLF LAUREL COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS, SUMMER 2017

Yvonne Carignan

BOOKS FOR ALL AGES AND INTERESTS

When Amelia Woolf graciously introduced me to the Wolf Laurel Library, she quickly pointed out its overcrowding. Shelves, particularly in the fiction section, were so full that newly donated books did not fit. What to do? Fortunately, librarians have strategies. One strategy has been to show only one copy of each title and to tuck extra copies of popular books in the space behind the books you see. Third and fourth copies may be put on “sale shelves” by the office or boxed up for the local public library book sale. A final strategy for making room is to encourage you take some books home to read. Please look around – you will find books that you will love! And keep your donations of books coming. After work over the winter, there is room for more of your generous donations. Here are some of the library’s needs:

- Kids coming to Wolf Laurel this summer would really benefit from any children’s books that you could spare to donate to the library. Currently, there are many nice children’s and young adult’s books in the library (with some nice new Harry Potters!), but these wear out quickly.
- DVDs of popular movies for children and adults, would be great for beefing up our small collection of that material.
- Books on CDs would enhance our very small collection of those.
- Newer fiction, classics, and popular non-fiction books are always appreciated by our Wolf Laurel readers.
- We have some great books on local history and travel, but if you have Western North Carolina related books or nature guides to donate, those will be most welcome.

CHANGES TO THE LOOK OF THE LIBRARY

Visitors to our community library will find just a few changes this summer. Some labels have been added to highlight locations for various topics. In the left-hand nook of the office, the travel section’s arrangement has been refreshed. General U. S. travel books come first, then travel books arranged alphabetically by specific states. Following U. S. states, the books are alphabetical by names of countries or continents. Recent donations of beautifully illustrated travel guides to places all over the world have enhanced our travel collection, so if you are planning a trip, see what books cover your destination.

A new donation of cookbooks increased that collection by at least a fourth. I know you can find almost any recipe you want online, but isn’t it inspirational to sit with Jacques Pepin or the editors of Gourmet Magazine to glean a few new ideas for fixing dinner or entertaining guests? The cookbooks, and books by “food writers” such as Julia Child, are in the nook across from the travel books.

The section on U.S. military engagements has new signs pointing to the books’ chronological arrangement, and the U.S. History section includes biographies of U.S. presidents. History is currently located in the room with fiction.

“Westerns” have moved upstairs! Look for westerns in the first row of the fiction on the main floor. They have moved up from the basement, and several signs point to the new location.

New signs also point out freshly organized sports books that are grouped into football, baseball, basketball, tennis, golf and other categories. A number of “how to” books instruct on physical fitness, self-defense, and related activities.

If you would like a tour of the library, I would be happy to arrange a time with you. Meanwhile, anyone in the office can show you where the books are on the first and second floors of the office. Keep checking your Wolf Laurel library out, send me – or give Cindy Tucker —your suggestions, and bring us your donations of books, CDs and DVDs! Many thanks!

Yvonne Carignan, ycarigna@gmu.edu

OFF THE ROAD AGAIN: HIKE TO DOUBLE SPRINGS

Wolf Laurel Wanderers

Bill Aimone

Are any of you familiar with Double Springs? It is not far away and a hike that many of you can do. It is close to Wolf Laurel, right off the Appalachian Trail on the far side of The Big Bald – more on its location later but first some local history.



Double Springs is a natural out-flowing of two springs. Having clear pure water, it was historically a camp site of some of earlier residents of this area. The Big Bald was once a rich grazing area for cattle, horses and mules during the summers. Local folks would drive their cattle to The Big Bald to be looked after by a man who stayed, during the summer, in a rudimentary building at the Double Springs site. It is likely that the owner of the property, Mr. Buck, hired this man to watch the livestock. The entire Big Bald was encircled by barbed wire. To this day, you can see pieces of barbed wire coming out of the middle of large trees!

Up until a few years ago, it was still a favorite camping site for local inhabitants. In March or April, local residents would come and harvest ramps, fry them with “streaked” meat (bacon) and “boomers” (red squirrels), and along with their favorite beverages, they would have a good spring outing. There are old galvanized trash cans, fire grills and other evidence of use. Nearby there are deer stands high in the trees. (Some years ago, while hiking in the area, I came upon a hunter’s video camera surveillance system.)



Having not hiked to the area in a couple of years, our Saturday morning hiking group decided to hike down

and do some exploration. We parked in the Big Bald parking lot, went up to meet the AT, and took a right up towards the Big Stamp. About 100 yards up, we took a left turn off the Big Stamp and proceeded into the forest. The trail, which was once well cleared, was somewhat overgrown but passable. About one half of a mile down the trail, knowing the approximate location of Double Springs and believing the normal entrance to Double Springs would be overgrown, we decided to take a cross country short cut through the woods. After a course correction we entered the Double Spring camp ground and located the Springs. Not having been used by anyone in quite some time, it is overgrown and in need of some maintenance (a couple of weed wackers could spruce up the trail and area easily).

A short distance below Double Springs is Double Falls, which consists of two cascading falls of about 15 feet to 20 feet each. These falls are possibly the largest falls in our immediate area, and all who have seen them have agreed it is worth the effort to view them. Unfortunately, the path down was blocked by numerous fallen trees and overgrown by laurel, thus forcing us to turn back. We returned back up the normal entrance trail which was not as overgrown as expected. We then connected to an old forest service road, which took us to the far side of the Big Stamp and returned home.

If anyone feels especially adventurous, maybe we can reopen the trail to Double Falls?

Editor’s note: Bob Phillips, brother of Dot Cody, verified and amplified some of this information, including clarifying “streaked” meat and adding “boomers.” Both Bob and Dot have camped many times at the site.

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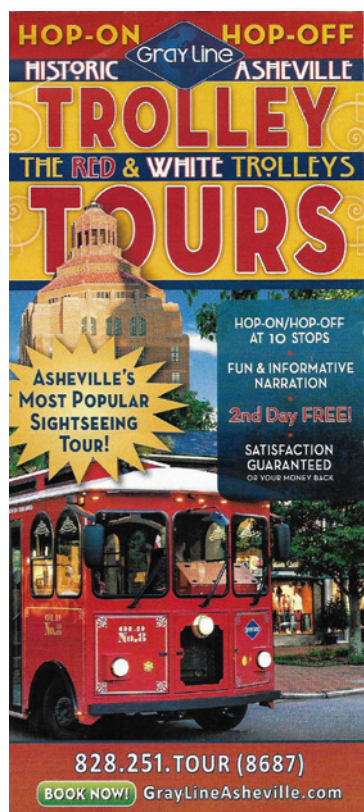


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WANDERING LADIES

Lee Moeller and JoAnn VanHyning



On Wednesday, May 31, seven (7) ladies met at the Community Center at 9:30 a.m. for a sightseeing trip to Asheville. We had reservations for the 10:30 am Red Trolley Tour. This Hop-On/Hop-Off tour lasts about 1 ½ to 1 ¾ hours with ten (10) stops. We began at the Asheville Visitor Center on Montford Avenue. Our lunch was near stop seven (7), the River Arts District. After a walk, we arrived at the White Duck Taco Shop. Following some tasty food and chit-chat, we headed back to the bus stop. Our drivers/narrators were excellent and a fun day was enjoyed by all. The cost for those of us over 60 was \$26, and the busses depart each stop about every 30 minutes.

Stop 1 – Asheville Visitor Center and Montford Historic District

Stop 2 – The Omni Grove Park Inn

Stop 3 – Renaissance & Four Points Hotels/Thomas Wolfe District

Stop 4 – Pack Square/Asheville Art Museum

Stop 5 – Haywood Park Hotel/Haywood St, Wall St & Battery Park

Stop 6 – Grove Arcade

Stop 7 – River Arts District

Stops 8, 9, 10 – Biltmore Village

On Thursday, June 22 a group of 12 Wandering Ladies meandered over to the Farmer's Hands in Mars Hill. Although they were met with some drizzle, it did not dampen their spirits or their enthusiasm.

The ladies were greeted by Chef Sebastian Zipp who then gave them a tour of the farm. The farm consists of a 150 year old house situated on two acres where they raise many of their own vegetables and herbs, as well as chickens, ducks, and rabbits.

They enjoyed water with mint and Mimosa's while they awaited their meal. All meals at the farm are served family style, and they were comfortable, sitting at a farm table, under a tent, which was strung with lights.

The menu consisted of Early Cabbage Slaw with French Dressing, Basil, and Candied Walnuts; Roasted New Potatoes with Garlic Scape Pesto, Shaved Parmesan and Smoked Paprika; East Fork Farm Grits with Spring Peas and Goat Cheese; East Fork Farm Cornbread; Grilled Hickory Nut Pork Loin with Radicchio and Bread and Butter Cherries.

Sebastian then did a dessert demonstration, which consisted of poached pears with Crème Anglaise and Fresh Whipped Cream. The dessert was light and delicious capping off the wonderful meal.

Al in all, it was a lovely day making new friends and enjoying a delicious meal. It doesn't get much better than that.



Top row from Left to right: Julie Coleman, Kippy Capers, Debbie Wallace, Earlene Shofi, Eunice Shoemaker, Kathi Carlson

Bottom row from left to right: Evelyn Dalrymple, Michelle Hunt, Jeri Magg, JoAnn VanHyning, Sharon Marable, Lee Moeller

BLASTS FROM THE PAST: TIDBITS FROM EARLY WOLF LAUREL NEWSLETTERS

In the winter edition of the TOP OF THE BALD, excerpts from three early editions of Wolf Laurel Newsletters were mentioned. In 1986 the newsletter was entitled WOLF LAUREL; in 1987 the POA voted to change the name to THE WOLF'S HOWL; then in June 1988, the TOP OF THE BALD became the name that has stuck. Here are some items of interest in newsletters from 1986 through 1988.

- **August 1986, p.1:** "Here it is! The eagerly awaited first edition of the Wolf Laurel newsletter has made it to press. Thanks to the efforts of Bob Williams in gathering advertisers, and the advertisers' generous support, we were able to expand this first issue to eight pages. The newsletter is run by property owners for property owners, and is an independent venture, separate from Bald Mountain Development Corp. and the Property Owners Association. It will, however, run news of the WLPOA and a monthly column by General Manager Joe Earman. The current staff includes Tim Walker and William Lee as Managing Editors; Marion Hawkins, News Editor; Louise Carson, Asst. News Editor; Bob Williams, Advertising Manager; Edna Papadakis, Asst. Adv. Mngr. The newsletter will be published monthly, May through October, with a Winter and Spring issue planned for December and March."
- **August 1986, p.5:** "FRIDAY NIGHTERS. The hors d'oeuvres are superb at our Friday Nighters. With several people in attendance on July 18th and 25th, the conversation was lively and mixed with some juicy gossip. The mad rush to buy the dollar tickets for the free dinner at the restaurant (buy one get one free), has thus far produced two winners – Harriett Spencer and Mr. & Mrs. George Brown."

- **September 1986, p.1:** "SIGN OF THE TIMES. The new Wolf Laurel Resort sign along Hwy. 23 was completed recently. The attractive sign (left) features raised, wood-block lettering and a colorful drawing of a wolf amidst a clump of mountain laurel. Lights are soon to be installed."



- **September 1986, p.2:** "GINSANG'S THE THING—SANG IS THE SLANG. By Robert Ramsey. Those living here on the Mountain this fall will probably have uninvited, unannounced visitors. These people are out 'sanging.' Say what? Yep! Even though you may not be aware of it, you probably have near your house a herb anywhere from five to eight inches in height, with three long and two short leaves growing from the top of the three different branches. By September a cluster of scarlet red berries show at the center of the plant. This herb is called 'sang' here in the mountains but better known as ginsang [ginseng]. The berries are priceless and so are the roots when dried out. The lure of easy money draws scavengers in the fall when the berries turn



red. This is why there is a 50 cal. machine gun mounted on our roof. We have attempted to help conserve the fast diminishing herb by protecting it until the birds can scatter the seeds over the surrounding mountains. The primary reason for its popularity is that the Chinese think it will cure anything from the common cold to impotence. The root as it matures takes on the likeness of a human body and is worth its weight in gold to the Chinese. It is now being cultivated but the value of the wild plant is still far in excess of the cultivated one. It would be like telling someone you had discovered a gold mine to divulge where on plant could be located. However, if you are interested, call us and we will make arrangements to show you a plant. Everyone owning property in the mountains should learn to identify 'sang.' Who knows? One may develop a need for some one day."

- **September 1986, p.5:** "FRIDAY NIGHTERS. Our two Friday nighters so far this month have been hosted by Mimi Churchill and Susan Pratt, on August 1st, and Fran Williams and Judy

Blume on August 8th. The evening special the first Friday was beef and catfish, followed by sweet and sour chicken, grouper, catfish and country ham the second week. Winners of the free dinners (buy one get one free) were Ed Ratliff and Bill Ward."

- **September 1987, p2:** "GUEST COMMENTARY, by *Alan J. Snider*. Marion Hawkins asked me to write about my impressions of Wolf Laurel. I feel honored and delighted. The Lord has blessed us who have found Wolf Laurel—it is high, verdant, and blessed with the finest people. Truly we are in a mecca of present, and potential spendor. We, however, have 'dragged our heels.' We have depended upon the God-given beauty of the landscape to attract residents. Now we must look forward to 'round out' a mountain resort concept... This can become the finest mountain resort east of the Rockies. Recreation is becoming a way of life for the hard working American and his/her family. Let up prepare to be a part of their lifestyle. The changes contemplated are exciting—let us help all we can to bring them to fruition."
- **October, 1987, p.4:** "A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR THE FRIDAY NIGHTERS. Those of us who have attended the Friday Nighters during the year would like to thank the following for furnishing the Hors D'Oeuvres for the evening: Harriette Spencer, Ann Fetter, Mary Billingsley, Dottie Berkley, Don White, Joanna Brown, Lynn Zeluff, John Scott, Dianne Ward, Gene Miller, Bobo Ratliff, Sheila Boesch, Judy Blume, Bunny Washington, Muriel Malitz, Nita West, Sheila Slater, Sandra Williams, Helen

Richardson, India Laurie, Eve Nichols, Carol Williams, Carolyn Vernier, Helen Sparks, Margaret Miller, Mimi Churchill, Barbara Tripson, LaVonne Bacarisse, Helga Hawkins, Adele Smith, Dot Blanchette, Dot Heinrich, Margaret Cason, Mary Sabatino, Betty Martin, Doris Goenner, Jeanne Burrows, Betty Rice, June Ramsey, June Miller, Beth Mitchell, Betty Bustin, Jean Mickins, Dee McNally, Ona Renninger, and **Walnut Mountain Ventures.**

- **May, 1988, p.3:** "EBBS CHAPEL FIRE DEPARTMENT AMBULANCE NOW IN SERVICE, by *Ed Martin*. 'Best equipped ambulance in the county.' That's what representatives of Memorial Mission Hospital said when they inspected the Ebbs Chapel ambulance last month... One problem remained. Madison County does not provide the money to Ebbs Chapel for an ambulance and that's where Wolf Laurel residents came through with flying colors. Our Property Owners Association donated \$5,000 to help supply the ambulance. An auction was held and, because of the generous bidding, \$2,250 more was raised. How was the money spent?"...\$550 for a portion of a new engine; \$410 for an emergency medical kit; \$5840 to supply the interior of the ambulance; the remainder being donated to the Ebbs Chapel V.F.D. general fund. ECVFD also borrowed \$3,000 to purchase the required radio to make the ambulance operational and was assured that Wolf Laurel would raise enough during the summer to pay-off the loan. "So by the time you read this the ebbs Chapel Volunteer Fire Department ambulance will be in service!"

- **June, 1988, see page 5 of the Winter 2017 edition,** "Welcome to the first edition of the "Top of the Bald."
- **June, 1988, p.5:** "WHAT IS HAPPENING DEPARTMENT... FRIDAY NIGHTERS provides a great opportunity to "see and be seen." On June 10 they had 64 people in attendance. Later in the season when more of the summer residents arrive, it should top 100 people. Come on out.
- **July, 1988, p.1:** "GOOD NEWS! *** A GOOD DEAL *** On July 2 the BMDC stockholders approved the sale of the ski slope area to Sepp Gmunder and Associates. The WLPOA would like to compliment and thank BMDC for making this deal, and as we are sure it is not only a good deal for BMDC, it is also very advantageous to the property owners' interest as well. Thank you, BMDC.
- **July, 1988, p.7:** *** OTHER INFORMATION *** "We have two new permanent residents on the mountain. They are Rip and *Ann Dobbins* from Corpus Christie, Texas. Ann was originally from Asheville, and says her ancestors lived in the Asheville area during or even before the Civil War. Rip is a Louisiana native and was a geologist in Texas. They bought a lot in Wolf Laurel and built their home in 1982, and commuted back and forth until Rip recently retired. He skis, plays golf and tennis and enjoys photography while Ann is a hiker. They have one son who still lives in Texas."
- **July, 1988, p.8:** *** PLACES TO EAT *** "by *Joe and Ginny Matheson*. Joe is an expert on where to eat breakfast, and

recommends the **Little Creek Café** – just go to #23 and turn right, and half a mile down the road is the Little Creek Care (it has great breakfasts and he is very fond of Mrs. Hamlin – in fact, he named a road in Wolf Laurel after her, and it's called Hamlin Lane) but he still rates the Wolf Laurel Restaurant as the finest for breakfast. Plus you can listen to the regulars telling jokes and solving all the world's problems."

- **September, 1988, p.6: ***MORE IMPORTANT TRIVIA***** "The French Broad River was originally called the Broad River, but was changed by 1776 to avoid confusion with another river of the same name [perhaps in SC]. It was named as such because much of the territory from which it drained west of the Blue Ridge was held by the French in the 18th Century. The river flows through Madison County, and flows west 102 miles to join

the Holston River near Knoxville, and then into the Tennessee River, then into the Mississippi River. We hope this clears up the misconception that the River was named after some mademoiselle."

More to come in future editions.



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