

Top of the Bald

Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association



Office: 828-689-9229

Autumn 2018

What's Inside

President's Message.....	1
Thanks for the Memories	1
Al Petteway and Amy White -	3
in Concert in the Village	
Welcome New Members.....	4
WLPOA Board of Directors.....	4
Wandering Ladies Meet Chihuly.....	5
Wolf Laurel Community Defined	6
WLPOA Notices	9
Restaurant Ramblings:	10
The Wandering Ladies Go Literary	11
Water Fitness Class 2018!	11
Meet Your Neighbors	12
Village Club Happenings.....	13
Village Book Club Tea Party	15
Dog Days Of Summer:.....	15
Benefit for My Sister's Place	17
Road Maintenance Projects.....	18
Wolf Laurel Wildlife.....	20
and Bear Safety	
WLPOA & Village Club	22
Membership Options and Fees	

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Brackett



As summer becomes history and we embrace fall, we reflect on another great season on the mountain. It will not be long and the

weather will be cooler and fall color will be in full display. I want to thank Cindy, Ronnie, and the Property Owners Association (POA) staff on another successful summer. I also want to thank Earlene and each POA Board Member that served last year. Working as a team, we had many dinners, entertaining music, games of pickle ball, laps in the pool, and many other activities that are too many to list. We had a GREAT summer!

We may be wrapping up the season, but it is also important to note that we have several days left before this season comes to a close, and we have several activities upcoming. Please reference this issue of Top of the Bald and the email updates from Cindy for information on upcoming events. There remains several days of activity over the coming weeks.

Lastly, I encourage additional participation and support of the POA and the Village Club. Your POA staff, Board, and many volunteers are working hard to evaluate and plan for additional improvements to our community. We are also considering options to encourage additional Village Club membership. If you are not a Village Club member, we encourage you to contact Cindy to learn more about the many benefits of the club and the vast array of activities in which you can participate. Wolf Laurel is a unique gem in the mountains of Western North Carolina, and with your support and participation, our community will remain a prized mountain resort for years to come.

We hope you will have the opportunity to come out and enjoy these social occasions!

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Rich Ashley

After sixteen issues and four years of editing the TOP OF THE BALD for the WLPOA, I'm hanging up my eye-shades and shirt-sleeve garters, and turning over the red pen to **Larry Veatch**.

Continued on page 3



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424 WOLF LAUREL ROAD

Great little cottage renovated just outside the resort gate. Nice floor plan with 1200sqft, wood floors, cathedral ceilings, stainless appliances in kitchen, Master bedroom and bonus room, Jack n" Jill bath between rooms, powder room off dining area, small private deck, dble carport, gas heat, sit on the private deck and listen to stream on property, state maintained road access, 1.16 Acre nicely landscaped. MLS#3431044 \$189,000



186 COTTAGE LANE

Great location year round, nicely furnished mountain home that offers 4 Bdr's, 4 Baths, 2 gas fireplaces, gas heat, 2 master suites on 2nd level, office area in newly finished lower level, 2 covered decks, one car carport, mountain views, MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE! MLS#3171311 \$314,200



89 PISGAH PASS ROAD-BREATH-TAKING LONG RANGE SOUTHERN VIEWS

3 Bdr's, 3 Baths, updated throughout, paved access and flat driveway, professional range in kitchen and granite counters, bonus rooms on lower level, master suite on main level and master suite upstairs, garage, unfurnished, efficient gas heat, extensive landscaping w/ National Forest across the street. MLS#3291286



560 Spring Valley Drive-\$199,990

Cozy cabin located across from golf course, beautiful landscaping on .58 acre, 1905sqft, cverd decks, stone fireplace, open floor plan, cath. ceilings in master & private deck, many updates, must see to appreciate!!

MLS#3417132



343 CHESTNUT VILLAGE LANE

Located in a nice area on wooded lot w/mountain views and 2 decks and sit and listen to stream on your property. 3 Bdr's, 2.5 Baths, with master suite on main V level, master bath with all upgrades to include heated tile floors, custom huge shower, double granite sink. Family room/ man cave with deck access, all paved access, furnished. MLS#3350646



THE LODGE 103-\$119,000

CAREFREE LIVING AT 4450FT ELEVATION

Beautiful mountain views from the private balcony, easily maintained one bedroom/one bath, 625sqft w/open floor plan, furnished, good investment potential. MLS#3142831



527 EL MINER DRIVE

All paved access for this antique log home that offers lots of windows and skylights, master suite on main level, cozy great room w/stone fpic, 2 Bedrooms and bonus room on upstairs level w/ shared bath. New roof, stainless appliances, covered front porch, .66 Acre, 1698sqft, furnished and ready to go across from golf course. MLS#3430447 \$259,900



3340 EL MINER DRIVE-LOG HOME ON GOLF COURSE PRICED \$30,000 BELOW 2017

APPRAISAL, 3 Bdr's, 2.5 Baths, impressive stone wood-burning fpic in 2 story high ceilings in great room, wood floors on main level, master suite on main level w/Jacuzzi tub, 2 bdr's, 1 bath and loft area on 2nd floor, spacious family room on lower level w/gas fpic, one car garage, home is immaculate, 2 decks to enjoy the mountain views. Close to country club and pro shop. MLS#3380750



PRIVATE ESTATE ON 53 ACRES

Located just outside the gate entrance. For those that are looking for a little more elbow room, this just might fit the "I want list", beautiful land with lots of trees and wildlife with small stream on property. Family-sized home 3530sqft, 3 Bdr's, 4 Baths, huge deck for entertaining, dble garage on main level and detached garage on property for storage, paved driveway and plenty of privacy on your own sanctuary. \$519,000 MUST SEE !!! Call for more info. MLS#3294961

Continued from page 1

Thanks, Larry, for stepping up to take over. I'm sure you'll get the same support from your contributors and readers that made my tenure such a pleasure.

It has been an honor to be able to serve the WLPOA membership as a Board member and editor of the TOB. I'd like to thank all of you who contributed articles so generously and loyally. You made my job easy and the newsletter informative and enjoyable for our readers.

I'd like to especially thank **Gwynne Beneke** for "training" me and for her "Restaurant Rambling" articles. See her last article in this issue. Thanks to the WLPOA Presidents, **Fred Tygart** and **Earlene Shofi** for their faithful President's message each issue. Many, many thanks to **Cindy Tucker** for her numerous articles every issue and for "rounding-up" authors for other articles of interest to the WLPOA community. Thanks

to **Jim Landry** for informative articles on the website, WLPOA rules and procedures and other topics of interest and information. Thanks to **Ronnie Rice** for supplying me with the names of all the new members for each issue and for distributing the TOB issues as they were published. Thanks to **Larry Smith** and other members of WLRMS for their articles highlighting topics on pertinent Roads and Security issues. Thanks to Laura Ponder of Dancing Moon Print Solutions and **Leslie Martin** of Athens Publishing, for working with me to produce quality products. And, thanks to our advertisers who make the TOP OF THE BALD possible for the WLPOA.

And finally, thanks to my wife, Julia, for putting up with me for the hours spent sitting at the computer and on the phone. We're not going anywhere so we'll see you around the mountain!

AL PETTEWAY AND AMY WHITE - IN CONCERT IN THE VILLAGE

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Al and Amy captivated the sell out crowd in the Village Pavilion Labor Day Weekend with their wonderful world class music. From Celtic to Appalachian, Folk and unique originals, this multi-instrumentalist couple gave us a delightful performance. The weather was a bit less than perfect but their instruments, equipment and the audience endured. They played from many of

their albums – those with their talents combined and also individually composed and performed works. It was a beautiful performance and we look forward to continuing concerts in The Village in 2019! For more information about Al and Amy, visit their website at <http://www.alandamy.com>.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We are pleased to welcome the new members below that have joined POA since the publication of the summer edition of the TOP OF THE BALD. Please seek them out and let them know of all the exciting opportunities the POA and Village Club have to offer.

Equity Village Club Members

Serenity Allen

Tom & Susan Benardo

Anthony & Susan Palukaitus

Mary Louise Roberts

Greg & Suzie Smith

WLPOA Members

Catherine Christianson

Walt & Melanie Liebert

Matthew & Laura Meierkort

Robert & Carol Musco

Ronald Newburn

Lawrence & Diane Pendleton

Donald & Kristy Poor

Robert & Kelly Wallace

WLPOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Brackett, *President*

Fred Tygart, *Vice President*

Lynn Cagney, *Secretary*

David Smith, *Treasurer*

Gail Watkins Ford

Bobby Hicks

Carl Larrabee

Lori Wyman-Macauley

Terry Ranostaj

Larry Veatch

Joanne Wit

Jim Landry, *Emeritus*

Earlene Shofi, *Immediate Past President*

WLPOA STAFF

Ronnie Rice, *Office Manager*

Cindy Tucker, *Village Club Director*



Top of the Bald Newsletter

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WANDERING LADIES MEET CHIHULY

Jeri Magg

On Friday, August 10th, six "Wandering Ladies" partook in a scrumptious dinner at the Stable Restaurant at the Biltmore Estate before viewing the Chihuly exhibit. Though the weather was threatening and then rained in torrents, the group took refuge inside the house and waited a short time before venturing out.

It was worth the sometimes hoisting of an umbrella to view the breathtaking glass sculptures. It took almost two years from inception to installation for these unique sculptures to be displayed at the Biltmore. For over five decades, Chihuly has created a body of work that has elevated the perception of glass from craft to fine art. His brilliant works of art, each a marvel of color, form and light, are included in more than 200 museums worldwide.

**Chihuly has created a body of work
that has elevated the perception
of glass from craft to fine art.**

One of our favorites was "The Float Boat and Carnival Boat," displayed in the garden. This was the first garden exhibition of Chihuly in North Carolina, though the lighting that enhanced the glass works was not part of the sculptures. After all the "oohs" and "aahs," the most asked question by the group was "How did they pack all the glass to transport it?" Very carefully!

Unfortunately, the exhibit ended October 7th. For more information about Chihuly exhibits go to:

<https://www.chihuly.com/exhibitions>.

In the photo, left to right, are Jeri Magg, Marnie Sullivan, Debbie Wallace, Barb Smith, Frenchie Richards, and Harriett Hill.



WOLF LAUREL COMMUNITY DEFINED

The Wolf Laurel community is comprised of approximately 575 homes and 700+ undeveloped lots. Within the gates of Wolf Laurel, there are multiple other communities, not counted in those numbers, which operate independent of the Wolf Laurel restrictions and assessments. These include Blue Mountain, and Mountainside Townhomes, the Ridges, Deer Run, and The Preserve. These entities can collect their own assessments, maintain their own roads and enforce their own covenants which can differ from the Wolf Laurel guidelines. Some of these Wolf Laurel organizations are further defined below.

WOLF LAUREL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

John Bracket, President

The Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association, a non-profit 501c4 corporation established January 12, 1984, was formed as a means for members to express their opinions and wishes and take action with regards to the administration, management, and operation of the Association. <http://www.wolflaurelpoa.com>. The purposes of the Association include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. To develop, improve, and maintain the overall environment of the Wolf Laurel Community in order to provide safe, healthful and harmonious living and to assure the protection of its natural features for the aesthetic enjoyment of its residents.
2. To promote the collective and individual property and civic interests as well as the rights of all the property owners.
3. To take necessary and appropriate measures to promote the general welfare and interests of the property owning residents of the Wolf Laurel Community.
4. To promote and/or arrange social, recreational, and educational activities of members.
5. To own and maintain Wolf Laurel Community amenities and facilities.

The Village Club at Wolf Laurel, a private club within the WLPOA, provides and maintains the recreational facilities in the Village along with the Nature Trail and the Angelico Ridge Pavilion. The Village Club provides a rich variety of programs and events throughout the season and special occasions during the winter season. The Village Club membership is optional for Wolf Laurel residents with many membership options. From fitness classes to concerts and educational programs there are many opportunities to enjoy. <http://www.wolflaurelpoa.com/village-club>.

WOLF LAUREL ROADS MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY HOA

Larry Smith, President

WLRMS, a nonprofit corporation formed in 2012, assumed the remaining assets of the developer, Bald Mountain Development. Those assets included the road right of ways, the undeveloped lots, the properties designated reserve and green space, the office building, the security gate, and the intangible assets such as the rights related to enforcement of the covenants and to collect the assessments for the continued operation of the community. The corporation is operated by a nine member Board of Directors elected by the property owners of Wolf Laurel serving three year staggered terms.

The primary functions of WLRMS include the maintenance of the roads, operation of the security gate, enforcement of the covenants and the architectural guidelines established for the community. The WLRMS Board is empowered to collect an annual assessment from the property owners of the Wolf Laurel, currently just over a million dollars. The operating cost for the community is approximately \$80,000 per month. The independent audit for 2017 revealed the corporation had \$410,000 on hand at the end of 2017. This money is designated as equipment reserves and funds to accomplish future repairs. An example of a future repair would be the resurfacing of Wolf Laurel Road, projected to cost about \$600,000.

The WLRMS Board meets twice a month throughout the year. These meetings are open to the community with the exception of executive sessions which are held to deal with contract negotiations, staff performance, or specific property owner hearings. The agenda and times of the meetings, held in the WLRMS offices located in the village, are posted online at the WLRMS website.

Answers to many questions can be found at <http://wolflaurelroadsandsecurity.com>, or by calling our office at 828-680-9162.

WOLF LAUREL COUNTRY CLUB

*Bobby Anglin, PGA , General Manager
Head Golf Professional*

Wolf Laurel Country Club is a private club composed of approximately 300 members. Our Club combines a great newly renovated golf course, golf practice facility, fitness center, dining room, lounge and bar, and fire pit area. We are located near the top of the mountain off Wolf Laurel Rd. The club and golf course are open May 1 - Oct. 31, while the fitness center remains open all twelve months. If you would like to learn more about the Country Club or take a tour, please feel free to stop by during your visit to the community, or contact us at 828-680-9771 or email at wolflaurelcountryclub@ccvn.com. Check out our website wolflaurelcountryclub.com.

THE PRESERVE AT WOLF LAUREL

Sam Stebbins

The Preserve at Wolf Laurel is located east of WLCC in Yancey County. The Preserve is 750 acres of forested homesites and stream buffers surrounded by 720 acres of private conservation land. We welcome anyone on the mountain to hike or mountain bike on our trail system. Trail Maps are available at The Buck House Inn.

The Preserve development began in 2006 with the historic restoration of The Buck House. It was sold in 2012 and has since become one of the top rated B&Bs in WNC. Due to the recession, only a few homes were built initially. The developer began a spec home program in 2016 and now 6 new beautiful mountain homes are for sale as well as many long-range view lots. The Preserve is a beautiful mountain community that celebrates the natural beauty and abundant wildlife in our community. Hiking, biking, golf, horse-back riding and trout fishing are favorite past-times of our residents and guests.

BLUE MOUNTAIN OWNERS ASSOCIATION (BMOA)

Barry S. Vaughn, President

BMOA is one of several homeowners associations within the greater Wolf Laurel Community. BMOA represents a wide and diverse group of home owners and property owners including Overlook Village, The Lodge, The

Cottages, Eagles Nest Villas, and Chestnut Village. These areas include single family dwellings, condominiums, villas and golf cottages. Blue Mountain is governed by an elected Board of Directors with sub boards for several of the groups. Our Owners association has architectural review / approval authority, as well as authority over tree removal and deforestation control. Our primary purpose (as an owners association) is road maintenance, improvement and drainage as well as snow removal. BMOA provides funding to WLRMS for security and gate control. BMOA community exists entirely of paved, blacktopped roads as well as underground utilities and street lights for most of the community. Panoramic and beautiful long range views highlight most of the the BMOA community.

THE RIDGES

Monte Veal, President

The Ridges is the newest POA in the Wolf Laurel vicinity. It is a small, close knit community consisting of 12 homes and 11 vacant lots. Residents are both seasonal and year round. All lots are oversized and are between four and five thousand feet in elevation. The Ridges is bounded by the Preserve, Blue Mountain POA and the Mars Hill watershed. The majority of the roads are paved and maintained by the Ridges POA. Lots face north and east with incredible 50+ mile views, overlooking multiple ridge lines. The Wolf Laurel Country Club, with golf course and fitness center, is a short five minute drive away. This POA, because of its small size, is easy to govern and problems are quickly resolved. The POA fees are set by the property owners at the annual meeting. Fees for 2019 are \$1500. All utilities are underground. The Ridges is accessible from both the front and back gates. Snow removal is constant when needed, insuring year round access to homes.

Please contact POA President, Monte Veal, (828-680-9597) if you have questions or need more information.

MOUNTAINSIDE TOWNHOUSES

Stanley S. Wetschler, M.D., HOA President

A unique characteristic of Wolf Laurel Resort is the diversity of residential offerings. Upon entering the MountainSide Townhome community, one is greeted by the soothing sound of an illuminated waterfall

constructed with natural boulders. Our development consists of nine luxury units ranging from 3200 - 4500 sq. feet, each having the feel of a free standing home with turn-key convenience. From the gracious entries, one is immediately struck by the long range layered southwest views of the Pisgah range! All units have soaring and cathedral wood ceilings, 3-4 stone fireplaces, 3-4 bedrooms (several with en suite bathrooms), walk in closets, and multiple expansive decks. In addition, some units provide first floor master bedroom suites, a theater room and an elevator. Double garages offer convenient access to the pantry and kitchen. Because of our small size and strong covenants, issues are easily resolved. Our HOA includes outside maintenance (landscaping), snow removal, paving the roads and roofing. The monthly fee is \$ 245 per month. Short term rentals are prohibited. Questions? Contact Stan Wetschler at (724) 316-6223, or email swetschler@gmail.com.

BALD MOUNTAIN CREEK NATURE PRESERVE: 5-YEAR UPDATE

Bill Jones

The Bald Mountain Creek Nature Preserve, consisting of 2 tracts totaling +/- 750 acres, were donated to Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land (STPAL) in 2013. The conservation deed restriction filed at the transfer was an important element for the land donor who intended for STPAL to perpetually preserve and enhance the ecological values of this natural land. It mandates protection of the Bald Mountain Creek corridor and its tributaries through observance of NC Forest Service recommended stream management zones (SMZs). Additionally, the native shrubs, trees, and remnant fruit trees are to be managed in a way to promote biological diversity to benefit native plant and animal species. Secondary objectives provide for enjoyment of native wildlife and outdoor recreation. Since 2013 the northern tract has been primarily used for equestrian trail riding. We have begun earnest planning for the long-term public recreation components of both tracts with project implementation beginning in 12-30 months dependent on the planning and its cost. There will be opportunities for STPAL to update and hear from neighbors during this process. In the near term there will be rehabilitation

of the trails and SMZs, installation of better signage and mapping for hikers, and consideration of limited future equestrian usage. All planning will seek to create a situation that our neighbors will appreciate and support. We enjoy being good neighbors with the Wolf Laurel community.

Contact: 404-376-7012; www.stpal.org;
www.facebook.com/southeasterntrustforparksandland.

WOLF LAUREL STABLES IN THE PRESERVE AT WOLF LAUREL

Wolf Laurel Stables, on the extreme East side of Wolf Laurel near the Buck House, has become a favorite destination for Wolf Laurel Residents and for horseback riding enthusiasts from all over the world. Stables owner, David Payne, continues to operate a safe and family-friendly trail riding opportunity and has been doing this for over 15 years now. David says "the folks here at Wolf Laurel are like family when they come to the Stables," and he's watched a lot of kids grow up as they continue to return to enjoy the peaceful, scenic experience. David is proud to call his horses family too! He is gentle with the horses and gives them a relaxing environment, letting them rest often. Their well-being as well as yours is David's top concern! With over 20 miles of trails, Wolf Laurel Stables offers the most scenic horseback trail rides in the Asheville area. The Stables is open for operation from April through November. Reservations in advance are recommended. For information, contact David Payne at 828-678-9370.



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WLPOA NOTICES

Hurricane Florence Donations: Thanks to all who contributed goods and funds to Hurricane Florence relief. Sheriff Buddy Harwood transported the donations collected by WLPOA and WLRMS to the Mars Hill Baptist Church for delivery to the flood victims. For more information about how to continue to donate, visit <https://www.facebook.com/MadisonCountyNCSheriff>. Additional hurricane relief was provided by Bright Hope Laurel United Methodist Church from your support of their annual Apple Butter Festival.



Firefighter Appreciation Dinner: The annual appreciation dinner for the Ebbs Chapel Volunteer Fire Department will be held early December at the Ebbs Chapel School dining facility. Please show your support and appreciation for these devoted volunteers by donating to help make this year's event another rousing success. Donations payable to the **Upper Laurel Community Organization** may be sent by Thanksgiving to Marsh Boyd, 474 Smith Creek Rd., Mars Hill, NC 28754. Your donations are tax deductible and you'll receive a receipt from Mrs. Boyd.

Winter Parties: The Village Club Committee would like to find *volunteers* to oversee 4 winter season parties (tentative dates below) in the Community Center. If you're interested, please contact Cindy at 828-689-4089 or cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com.

11/23/18 6pm - Thanksgiving Leftover Potluck Party!

BYOB and a dish or two to share

12/21/18 6pm - Christmas/Holiday Party w/music.

BYOB and holiday treats/appetizer to share

2/15/19 6pm - Valentines day weekend party -

BYOB and appetizer to share

3/15/19 6pm - Wear the green!

BYOB and appetizer to share

Donate Non-Perishable Food! If you are preparing to leave the mountain for the season, please donate any non-perishable food items (note – no expired products!) for local charities! Drop off at the WLPOA Community Center – THANK YOU!

Winter Hours for the Community Center (The Barn)

Starting Nov 1st 7am-1pm Mon-Friday

Subject to change due to weather conditions.





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RESTAURANT RAMBLINGS: FINAL RENDERINGS

Gwynne Beneke

I have looked forward for months to Vijay Shastri's newest culinary venture, **THE CONTINENTAL LOUNGE** in downtown on Biltmore. It was scheduled to open in early summer, but construction problems delayed it until early fall. If you know anything about Vijay's background in the restaurant industry, you know that it has been more than his life's work – it is his essence and what he lives for. So it was with a sense of celebration that we walked into **THE CONTINENTAL LOUNGE** on the evening of September 30th and were greeted with hugs by Vijay.

His concept is a very contemporary one: the best food at a reasonable price, served promptly and with pizzazz! This is the drill: walk in, pick up a menu (which changes but always features Vijay's legendary buttermilk fried chicken), order at the bar, and choose between indoor or outdoor seating. We were hardly settled when the appetizer arrived, hot-from-the-fryer and perfectly crusted onion rings with a red sauce dip on the side. The atmosphere is upbeat and full of energy. But that's Vijay! For the past several years he has been flying all over the country, consulting in the restaurant industry. New York, LA, Chicago, Dallas. It was time to stay home and spend quality time with his teenage daughter. Thus **CONTINENTAL LOUNGE**, Asheville.

After we had munched on the best fried chicken you have ever put in your mouth, Vijay plopped a big dish of grits with shrimp and tasso on our table to sample. The grits are "living." A farmer in eastern Tennessee grows and processes the grits without the usual dehydration process – don't ask me how, but the result is a tender, extraordinarily flavorful, almost crunchy grit. Take your usual grits and multiply by five! Tender large shrimp (not the usual over cooked) and a just right wake-up-your-tongue sauce. If you can forego the chicken one night, this is your entrée! I am a picky food customer. I am particularly critical of service. Although only recently opened, several waiters, two cooks, and a manager who worked for Vijay in previous ventures were standing in line to be rehired! So his staff is seasoned to Vijay's unique ways and perfectionistic demands. He is only open now for dinner and Sunday brunch, but he hopes to expand his hours to lunch and perhaps breakfast. Go early, five-ish to be able to relax and have a conversation with Vijay.

This is my last **RESTAURANT RAMBLINGS** article. I have written the feature for 10 years, either 3 or 4 times a year, each article than reviewing 2 or 3 restaurants. That adds up to close to 100 or more restaurants. I have my all-time favorites and I can't sign off without reminding you of some.

For lunch **DOWNTOWN**: easier than dinner to get into the famous tapas **CURATE**; you still need to make reservations in high season.

CHESTNUT GRILL: open in those weird late lunch hours when so many good restaurants close.

EARLY GIRL: dependable, delicious, breakfast or lunch.

For lunch outer Asheville: **MOE'S BARBECUE** on Merrimon, past Beaver Lake. Catfish sandwich!

COUNTRY KITCHEN in Biltmore Village.

CEDRIC'S Antler Hill Village, Biltmore Estate (don't miss the shepherd's pie!)

For dinner **DOWNTOWN**: **LIMONE'S** superb service, upscale West Coast sophisticated Mexican, reservations.

NIGHTBELL: unusual Katy Button small plates.

MARKET PLACE: always excellent food and service.

Dinner outer Asheville: don't miss **GROVE PARK INN'S SUNSET TERRACE DINING**, special occasion or treat yourself! **GROVEWOOD**.

Neighborhood gems: **CHIESA**, or **VINNIE'S** (no reservation) for Italian; **BONE AND BROTH (BEEF! drop-in weeknights or call)**; **CITY BAKERY** downtown or Charlotte St.

It has been my great pleasure to munch and write and give you suggestions for your culinary pleasure! But it's time. If you need a suggestion for a special occasion, you can text or email me for the newest or yummiest suggestion. I will to continue to explore and **EAT! BON APPETIT!**

Editor's Note: Thank you, Gwynne, for your many years of authoring "Restaurant Ramblings." Your articles have always been well-researched (I'm sure that was a chore!), well-written and certainly well-received by all of us! We will miss looking forward to your contributions, but thank you, too, for listing your favorites! Additionally, thank you for your initial mentoring and continuing support of the **TOP OF THE BALD**.

THE WANDERING LADIES GO LITERARY

Jeri Magg

The 2018 Carolina Literary Festival held in Burnsville was a major event for the Wandering Ladies this year. Ten of our intrepid wanderers made the early morning trip on Friday, September 7th. The busy day-long schedule included workshops, author readings and a delicious lunch at the Garden Deli.

One of the highlights was a session with Wolf Laurel's own, Harriett Hill. Her book, "Escaping Viet Nam – H'Yoanh's Story," was brought to life by H'Yoanh Buonya, in attendance at the session. She spoke about her harrowing experiences fleeing her country.

The keynote speaker, Gail Godwin, a three-time National Book Award finalist, talked about her kind of "ghost story," in which the presence of the supernatural is precipitated by characters who are undergoing an emotional crisis.

Many enjoyed listening to Leah Weiss, author of "If the Creek Don't Rise," as she revealed all the machinations involved in writing her stories. Others joined Jodi Lynn Anderson's workshop for young adult fiction writers. Fans of Harry Potter will love her books.

It was an educational and entertaining experience for all who made the trek. We can't wait until next year!



The group photo includes, left to right, Kay Brotherton, Marlene Parks, Jeri Magg, Harriett Hill, H'Yoanh Buonya, Martha Tate, Frenchie Richards and Lee Moeller. The two person photo is of Karen Gerry and Gator John, Karen's partner in Gator John's BBQ.



WATER FITNESS CLASS 2018!

Leigh Ann Roseberry



We've completed another wonderful year of Water Fitness classes! Thanks to Leigh Ann Roseberry and Denise Norton for heading up the classes. Laura Fisher filled in a few classes as well! We also want to thank our faithful members who never missed a beat and always made the class enjoyable! Our water temperatures were raised to a warm 88 degrees to increase the therapeutic effect. We would love to have you attend a class next year and try it out! If you are not

a member of the Village Club, please ask for a Guest Pass for one free visit to any of our classes. The Village Club also offers a Trial Membership so you can enjoy an entire season of all classes at a reduced rate. If interested, please contact Cindy Tucker in the Village at 828-689-4089.

Enjoy the rest of your 2018 and we look forward to seeing everyone back on the mountain next year!

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS: JOHN AND KATHY WISCHMEIER

Kathy and John Wischmeier settled on English Ridge when they moved here from the greater Scottsdale-Phoenix-Sedona, Arizona area two years ago, going from one extreme to the other in temperature and population.

Living up here and loving it at Wolf Laurel gives us peace of mind, tranquility, serenity and the enjoyment of being at home and truly "being at home" in our mountains we all love.

Kathy, a Certified Pharmacy Technician, worked for 13 years at Scottsdale HealthCare Virginia G. Piper

Research Center and Transplant Institute. Though it was exciting to be involved in seeing and participating in developing some of the new drugs that are coming out (I remember when the first antivenom was developed for rattlesnakes), I am glad to be here in the Eastern mountains now.

Kathy grew up in Minnesota until her family moved to the Glacier Park area in Montana. The family owned the now famous Historic Tamarack Lodge (<http://www.historictamaracklodge.com/>) located in West Glacier. "Going to school there enabled us kids to totally enjoy the park: travel, hike – we had free reign wherever; we worked within the park for private businesses that taught us valuable work ethics; we learned about nature and outdoor activities and had our own frozen pond in the winter where we played hockey. I remember when I was in high school often driving our Ford Galaxy 500 up Going-to-the-Sun road with my brothers and sisters. There weren't the crowds then that are there now. Those were such awesome times. Our family traveled out West every summer to other parks where we camped and hiked. When home in the summer, Dad would take us down the Flathead River on our big raft which was always an adventure. Living here in Western NC has taken me into little adventures such as these, as we have such a diversity of outdoor activities

to enjoy and immerse ourselves in." In the summer you'll find Kathy working in The Village, and in the winter working as a ski patroller at the local ski area. Kathy is involved with National Ski Patrol and is certified in

Outdoor Emergency Care and CPR.

John grew up in the Cleveland, Ohio area and had lots of siblings. In 1972, at the age of 12, he and his family moved to Prescott, Arizona where he immersed himself in riding motorcycles, hiking and, at that time (although he didn't



know it), became a young ropes expert. He got involved in gymnastics and started rope climbing as well. To this day he is well known for his giant rope swings, some still up in secret places! Entering the construction field, John became a carpenter and started building decks which became his specialty. He has built decks for school systems that have existing trees incorporated into the decks. John now works out of the Chicago area for Icon Identity Solutions, which manufactures, constructs, and maintains unique brand-implementation programs. Although the main office is in the big city, he travels around the country implementing the rebranding of retail stores.

While living in Arizona, we had greyhounds (greyts as we call them) and several cats. We now have two cats but no dogs, so Kathy gets her dog fix by pet-sitting. With John traveling, Kathy flies to be with him whenever time allows. Our lives are busy and we make the most of our times together. When John is home, we like working on the house. Kathy makes homemade cards and scrapbooks. She has two grown kids in Asheville and a grandson who loves to be up here, with another grandson on the way, due in November.

VILLAGE CLUB HAPPENINGS

DONATE NON-PERISHABLE FOOD! If you are preparing to leave the mountain for the season, please donate any non-perishable food items (note – no expired products!) for local charities! Drop off at the WLPOA Community Center – and, **THANK YOU!**

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAMS:

Fitness Class with Mary Lou Woodiwiss *continues through October!* Come out for this great opportunity and get fit! Monday & Thursday 9am. Takes place on the black top or in the Village Pavilion – instructor's choice depending on weather. Bring your exercise mat, water bottle & weights and enjoy this excellent class.

Tai Chi with Fred Buck – ended October 11. Join us again next year.

Pickleball – Wednesdays and Fridays at 10am; Sundays at 2pm (*new time!*) *and continues through October!* If you haven't played this great sport before, contact George Shennan (gshennan@icloud.com) and he will arrange a time before regularly scheduled play on Sunday to give you a chance to learn the game. Come check out the fun and our NEW Pickleball courts!!

Friday Night Socials – every Friday at 6pm in the Village Pavilion. Free! BYOB & appetizer to share. If it's chilly, we'll have a cozy fire in the Pavilion. The Village Club provides picnic supplies, mixers, ice, etc. Come enjoy these great social gatherings!

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!

Health & Longevity with Larry Veatch – ended October 4. Join us again next year.

CPR/AED Class with Jim Deloatch – *New date: October 17, 9am.* The knowledge gained could help you save someone's life – so do not miss the opportunity! The class will take place in the Activity Center. Contact cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com to sign up!



WLPOA ART WALL: Our last Art Display in the WLPOA Community Center for the season is featuring Allison Parker and her oil paintings. Please stop in to enjoy the art! Allison studied classical drawing and painting at the Grand Central Atelier in NYC holds a B.F.A degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design. Her work has appeared on TV series 'Secrets of New York'.

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755 MCKINNEY GAP DR

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\$799,000



787 OVERLOOK DRIVE

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\$675,000



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231 Sarvis Lane

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423 Grouse Thicket

Great cabin with long range views. Wonderful views with high elevation.

\$229,000

VILLAGE BOOK CLUB TEA PARTY

Karen Gerry

At the recent Village Book Club Tea Party held at the Village Club Pavilion, participants shown in the photos discussed the book, "The Tea Girl from Hummingbird Lane." Please come join our group next season. Contact Karen Gerry for more information about the Book Club.



Left to right:

Frenchie Richards, Betsy Browne,
Karen Metcalf, Harriet Hill,
Pat MacLean, Martha Tate.



2nd photo:

Jeri Magg, Joann VanHyning, Rene
Hartley and Marlene Parks.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

Lori Wyman Macaulay

It was a beautiful Friday evening, August 10, 2018, and our Dog Days of Summer event was about to begin at 6pm. This Village Club function had sold over 70 tickets.

When the guests arrived, they were treated to mouth-watering dinner items and dessert. Tim Donovan and Friends touched everyone with their fun and lively music. Tim had brought out some of his favorite musician friends and we were entertained by an assortment of instruments and different genres of music. Many of the guests got so inspired that they jumped up on the mock dance floor and kicked up their heels to the beat of the sounds. Thanks, Tim!

This is an annual event that is always a sure-fire way to get everyone together for a really great time. Join us next summer if you're looking for a good way to spend a fun evening with your Wolf Laurel friends.

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BENEFIT FOR MY SISTER'S PLACE

Cindy Tucker

So – an event called “Stuff It!” may have sounded a bit weird, but that’s exactly what happened at the WLPOA Community Center at 4:30pm on September 10th. It only took a half an hour for our wonderful participants to ‘stuff’ at least 35 bags – backpacks, purses, athletic bags, shopping bags and even some cool handmade bags – full of needed supplies. We had all kinds of donations – mostly the basic necessities for the clients of My Sister’s Place, families displaced by domestic violence. In addition to all these great bags, an envelope started getting ‘stuffed’ with all the money donated by some very generous folks! We collected \$1300 for My Sister’s Place to use for their clients to help them through tough times.

Delivery of the donations was delayed by Hurricane Florence. Marshall, as always, was on flood alert. So, the big load of donations was delivered Thursday, September 20. The Staff at My Sisters Place helped unload and carry the load into their upstairs administrative area to be added to their pantry. They were very appreciative of all the donations – especially the cash and checks! The Founder, Joyce Webb, was very grateful.

Many thanks to all who donated supplies or money! And, a big “thank you” to some very efficient sorting and stuffing ladies: Cindy Tucker, Melissa Drake, Harriett Hill, Marlene Parks, Earlene Shofi and Lois Lynn Bellemare.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to get some good deals in their re-sale store, check it out. My Sister’s Place is located in downtown Marshall at 103 S. Main. They have been serving clients since 1987. Their Mission Statement: Promoting domestic peace and safety through advocacy, support, and community education.



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ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Larry Smith

WLRMS is currently involved in several major projects to improve our community. We have initiated a program to replace gravel on our roadways. This began with an effort to retrieve gravel that had washed into our ditches. Then the Board identified sufficient budgeted revenue that could be utilized to purchase an additional 100 loads of gravel (crush and run) to restore the worst areas. To supplement this effort we created a gravel match program which encourages homeowners to buy a load of gravel to be matched by a load of gravel for their roadway. Within the first week of this effort over 1/3 of our loads have already been matched.

A second ongoing project is being completed by the Forest Service. They obtained a grant to daylight the narrow roadways of Wolf Laurel in an effort to promote fire safety in our community. This grant has been funded and the scope of work has been defined by the Forest Service. They are now in the process of securing bids for the work to be accomplished. High on that agenda will be the mulching of debris that accumulated through our advance efforts to contribute to that effort.

In addition to clearing the debris, they will complete several areas that still need significant attention.

Several major projects were completed over the summer. By utilizing the services of subcontractors with heavy equipment, we were able to rebuild the roadway on Town Mountain Road lost in a major slide last winter. Then we repaired a significant slide on Chestnut caused by heavy rains. Finally we were able to replace a 4 foot diameter culvert under the roadway at the old motel site which directs the creek. These three projects totaled \$70,000 to the subcontractors with additional costs for our staff, equipment and gravel.

Our final goal prior to the onset of winter is to accomplish some repair for our paved roads. We have an estimated cost of about \$40,000 to patch and seal designated areas of roadway. (You may have noted painted markings on roadway.) We have money budgeted for this task, but the contractors have been delayed by a backlog of work. If the onset of winter weather and cold temperatures permits, we hope to have this done before the snow season begins.

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WOLF LAUREL WILDLIFE – AND BEAR SAFETY!

Cindy Tucker

Wolf Laurel is a beautiful community with so much forested land surrounding us. With all that natural beauty comes a myriad of wildlife. The Northern Brown Water snake populates our Village Pond (a non-venomous species), deer and turkey are of course numerous through out the community along with many bird species, coyote, rabbit, raccoon, and of course, black bear.

According to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the black bear is the only bear species found in North Carolina or anywhere in the eastern US. The successful comeback of the American black bear in North Carolina represents one of wildlife management's greatest achievements. Black bears were once restricted to remote areas and reached very low population levels in the mid-1900s. Today, black bears are found approximately 60% of the total land area of North Carolina.

The black bear is an omnivore with a diet of both plants and animals. It varies in color: in North Carolina, the black bear is usually black with a brown muzzle and

sometimes a white patch on its chest, commonly referred to as a chest blaze. Black bears rely mostly on their sense of smell and hearing due to poor eyesight, but are adept at climbing, running, swimming and digging. **They have been clocked at speeds of 35 miles per hour over short distances.**

Bears prefer large expanses of uninhabited woodland or swampland with dense cover which provide good bear habitat. Recent research has shown bears to be much more adaptable to habitat changes than previously thought and some bears have adapted to living near developed areas.

That brings us back to bears in our community. It's always a thrill to see wildlife so close and to experience such a wonderful connection to nature. One big consideration is how to live with black bear and other wildlife without our interactions becoming problematic for us and for the bears. While bears normally avoid humans, they can be attracted to homes and backyards by the food they can find. The following guidelines



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provided by Appalachian Black Bear give us 'food for thought.' A bear can be considered a nuisance when it becomes used to finding human food and garbage in areas where people live or recreate. Carelessly stored food, garbage, even barbecue grills and bird feeders can all attract bears and keep them coming back. The outcome is often a dead bear and even orphaned cubs. This can be remedied by eliminating the source of the attraction. Bears are known to be particularly intelligent and will easily remember where an easy source of food can be found. This applies to adult bear AND bear cubs.

As much as you may enjoy putting corn out for deer, enjoying watching the birds feed at your feeders, please consider doing all you can to help prevent bear from becoming 'food conditioned.' As a community, we can still enjoy the wildlife without feeding – ultimately the bears. It's important to eliminate as many of the potential food sources as we can. Consider:

- Putting bird feeders away at night (or better yet, just enjoy an outing of bird watching naturally!)
- Not feeding or baiting wildlife with corn, etc.
- Locking up or storing grills, trash cans, etc., in your home/garage
- Not leaving pet food outside
- Picking fruit from fruit trees, etc., as regularly as possible – even disposing of rotting fruit left on the ground

We can continue to enjoy natural wildlife interaction and protect our wildlife by doing all we can to prevent wildlife from becoming a nuisance. Remember, a fed bear can become a dead bear. One bit of good news is that the acorn mast this year is good and bears may be less likely to seek other food sources, but remember that the acorn mast varies each year. So, keep vigilant about removing possible bear food sources in your yard – for the bears' sake and for your safety as well as your families' and neighbors' safety. If you would like to get more information about bear safety, please visit the Appalachian Bear Rescue website:

<http://appalachianbearrescue.org>

We also have some info from ABR available in the WLPOA Community Center.

"Remember, bears are far more likely to enhance your wilderness experience than spoil it. Knowing how to interpret their behavior and act responsibly is part of the thrill of sharing forests and mountains with these amazing creatures." ABR

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WLPOA & Village Club Membership Options and Fees

WLPOA Annual Dues - \$175 – required for all Wolf Laurel Property Owners since 2002
(Blue Mountain, The Ridges, The Preserve can join at their discretion)

Village Club Membership Options – Property Owners in any area of Wolf Laurel may opt in with a WLPOA Membership and Fees shown below. Contact Ronnie Rice or Cindy Tucker with questions.

Village Club Trial Membership – 1 year option:

\$ 175 WLPOA Annual Dues
\$ 375 Village Club Annual Dues
\$ 150 Toward Initiation Fee in year 2

\$ 700 Total

A Comparison of Equity and Non-Equity Membership:

Equity

\$ 175 WLPOA Annual Dues
\$1900 One-time Initiation Fee (\$1750 if prior Trial)
\$ 375 Village Club Annual Dues

\$2450 Total – Year One

Only Annual Dues are paid after Year One (\$550)

Initiation Fee is **Refunded** if Property is sold
Financing of Initiation Fee **IS** Available
Term of Membership – **Permanent for the home**

Non-Equity – User Participants

\$ 175 WLPOA Annual Dues
\$1900 One-time Initiation Fee (\$1750 if prior Trial)
\$ 375 Village Club Annual Dues

\$2450 Total – Year One

Only Annual Dues are paid after Year One (\$550)

Initiation Fee is **Non-Refundable**
Financing of Initiation Fee is **NOT** available
Term of Membership – **Minimum of 6 Years**

Limited Offer! Equity Conversion - the resale of Non-Equity Memberships **Converting Membership type to Equity:**

\$ 175 WLPOA Annual Dues
\$1000 One-time Initiation Fee
\$ 375 Village Club Annual Dues

\$1550 Total – Year One

Only Annual Dues are paid after Year One (\$550)

Initiation Fee of \$1000 is **Refunded** if Property is sold
Financing of Initiation Fee **IS** Available
Term of Membership – **Permanent for the home**

Limited Equity:

\$ 175 WLPOA Annual Dues
One-time Initiation Fee is taken from WLPOA Dues to date
\$ 375 Village Club Annual Dues

Total – Year One based on number of years paid

Only Annual Dues are paid after Year One (\$550)

Amount Paid for Initiation Fee is **Refunded** if Property is sold
Term of Membership – **Permanent for the home**

Equity Advantage: Available to new owners of Non-Equity Homes

\$ 175 WLPOA Annual Dues
One-time Initiation Fee applied from previous owner
\$ 375 Village Club Annual Dues

No refund of Initiation Fee and No Financing of Initiation Fee
Term of Membership – **Permanent for the home**

Sponsored Membership Fee

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