

## President's Message

By Fred Tygart

By all measures the 2014 season was a good year for the Wolf Laurel Property Owners Association and, in particular, the Amenities Program. Membership has increased beyond projections made in 2010 when the Amenities Program was created to purchase the Village, our books are balanced, and participation in our programs is at an all time high.

All of this success can be attributed to a team effort. Credit goes to the Boards that we have had over the years and that credit is shared by all those who have served on our committees. It takes a lot of folks and effort to make it happen each year.

Our committees have already started their work for the coming season. The Amenities Committee is again chaired by Earlene Shofi with Barby McQueen, George Shennan, David Schmidt and Cindy Tucker as members. While all of our committees are equally important this one is certainly the most active, offering all of the programs and events that make each season special. To get to know your neighbors and really optimize your enjoyment of our mountain community you need to take advantage of these programs and our facilities.

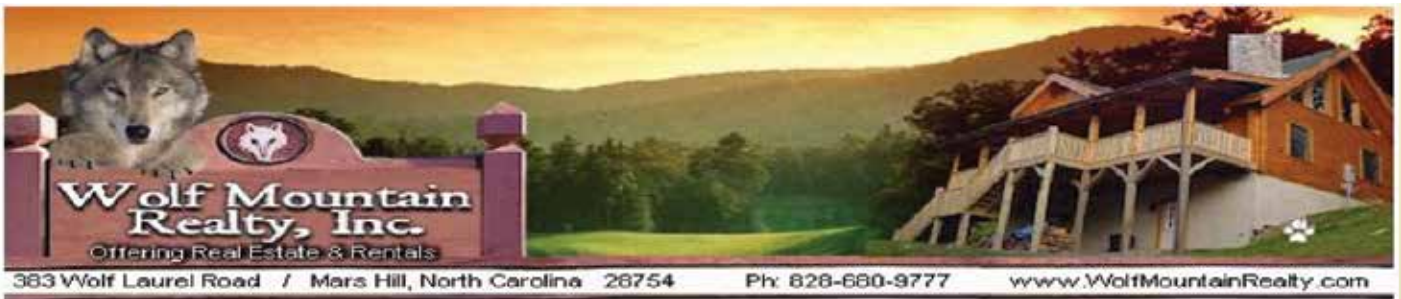
Our Membership Committee is chaired by Nancy Schmidt and supported by the active cast of Joanne Wit, Michaelene Sanders, Debbie Romero, Gene Woolf and Lynn Cagney. They have done an excellent job as membership has increased each year but each year is a new challenge. While they work diligently to keep up with new residents on the mountain, they still need your help, so if you know of a new resident please let them know.

Maintenance of our Village facilities is always a priority. The Facilities Committee chaired by Tom Wallace with members Dick Moeller, Bill Aimone, Tim Donovan, Randy Hill, Garry Wit and Gail Ford put in a lot of hard work to keep the Village in impressive condition. This past year we were fortunate in that we did not have any major repairs.

The well kept appearance of the Village is a result of constant effort by the committee. Special recognition is due to Gail and John Ford for the flowers and plantings around the Pavilion and to Tim Donovan, master electrician, whose gratuitous contributions

over the past two years have taken care of all our electrical needs. Heavy lifting awards go to Tom Wallace and Dick Moeller who pitched in (literally) to spread 100 bags of mulch this year.





**217 Lookout Drive-** Amazing location & long range Mtn views at a great value! Walk to country club from this spacious Mtn home. 3 Bdr's 3 baths, huge stone fplc, furnished. Bring all offers!! **MLS#470376 \$309,900**



**68 Gardenside-** Mountain views & privacy is what this stunning Mtn home offers. Cath. wood ceilings, wood & tile floors on main level, 3374 SQFT, 3 Bdr's, 3 baths, huge family room and 2 bonus rooms on lower level. **MLS#509764 \$349,000**



**140 Upper Lookout -** Just reduced- Incredible sunrise views & adjacent to golf course, well maintained 3 bdr's, 3.5 baths roomy 2780SQFT, stone fplc, cath. ceilings, tons of glass, open & airy feel. Mostly furnished. **MLS#530926 \$410,000**



**204 Hampton Gap-** Great value on paved road! A-Frame that offers 2bdr's, 2 baths, furnished, fplc and flat .63 acres. **\$112,000**



**141 Oakridge Court-** Immaculate golf course chalet, upgraded kitchen, baths, windows & doors, 3bdr's 3 baths, furnished, gas furnace, central A/C. **\$192,000**



**1470 Big Bald Rd-** Impressive antique log home- Spectacular year round views, 4bdr's, 3.5 baths, 3 level living, 3,915SQFT, gourmet kitchen, garage, 2 massive stone fplcs, unfurnished, 1.38 acres. **MLS#562974 \$425,000**



**85 Bee Tree Ln-** Outstanding custom built home, 3 bedroom suites, wood & tile floors throughout, cath ceilings, stone fplc, gas heat, central air, 2 decks, paved drive, hot tub, garage, Mtn views. Good investment potential! **MLS#469037 \$449,500.**



**184 Hampton Gap-** Location, Location, Location!! Beautiful Mtn views w/ all paved frontage, family sized, 3,527SQFT, furnished, dbl garage, huge game room. Tremendous Value!! **MLS#55642 \$475,000**



**Eagles Nest Villa 102-** One of the best values in the resort! Carefree living at 4,500ft elevation. Great 1,200SQFT floor plan, 2 master suites, stone fireplace, open greatroom, private deck, pantry, furnished. **MLS#421022 \$195,000**

We all enjoy our Top of the Bald magazine which is published quarterly. Over the years Gwynne Beneke has served as editor of the TOB and has made it an outstanding publication. She now has stepped down to become a consulting editor and Rich Ashley has stepped up as Chair and editor. While Lynn Matthews and Nancy Schmidt give invaluable support as the Editorial Board, special thanks must go to all those who contribute articles to the TOB which keeps the content fresh, interesting and educational.

We do have a number of one person committees of which you may not be aware. The chairs are full time residents, whose contributions round out the excellent overall experience that we as WLPOA members have at Wolf Laurel. First is Jim Landry who is our webmaster and IT chair. The website ([wolflaurelpoa.com](http://wolflaurelpoa.com)) is due to his efforts and is maintained by Jim. Please visit the website to appreciate what a tremendous service it is and to keep abreast of what is happening on the mountain.

Larry Smith is Chair of the Monday and Friday Nighters events. We all enjoy these and Larry is the person who makes them happen. These events provide an opportunity each week for us to greet new members and enjoy the company of old friends. Gene and Amelia Woolf serve as co-chairs of the Library Committee. Yes, we do have a formidable library at the Community Center (actually two as the children's library with games and puzzles is downstairs). Gene and Amelia do an amazing job of organization and maintenance.

We owe these folks a hearty thank you for their dedication and hard work each year in making Wolf Laurel a wonderful place to live. When you see these Board and committee members please let them know that you appreciate their contributions. Come May, we once again will be ready for another enjoyable season!

## THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREE

By Larry Smith

Try to imagine the devastation that would be seen if one fourth of our local forest were quickly wiped out of existence. This very event occurred here in our mountains during the 1920's and 1930's with the arrival of the American Chestnut Blight. Until the blight attacked, the chestnut was our most dominant tree, representing 20 to 25 % of the total forest. This disruption created hardship for wildlife and humans alike. The chestnut tree had provided the major food source for wildlife and livestock as the winter season approached. In heavily forested chestnut stands the nut mast could exceed 12 inches in depth when the nuts fell. It also had become a holiday tradition as trainloads of chestnuts were shipped to the cities for roasting. To local mountain residents, the lumber provided strong weather resistant lumber for cabins and barns. By 1940 only dead trees remained standing. These dead trees were utilized by the farmers to build barns. They had no market value, but have provided many a woodworker a resource for wormy chestnut.

The blight is believed to have been imported from a Japanese nursery around 1900. It was first diagnosed in New York in 1904. The disease is spread by a fungus carrying a virus. It is spread by the wind and moved across the country at about 50 miles per year. There are still



some isolated stands of American Chestnut Trees scattered around the country protected by their isolation from surrounding forests. The most significant source for genetic material to restore the American Chestnut Tree is all around us. The fungus that kills the tree is not so successful in wiping out the rootstock.

On hillsides throughout Wolf Laurel you can find Chestnut Trees sprouting in the forest floor. These will typically grow to about 6 to 8 feet tall and a couple of inches in



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diameter before the blight kills the tree. These sprouts rarely reach the sexual maturity to produce seeds. However the determined seeker might eventually discover a tree producing chestnuts. Please do not get too attached to your discovery. The tree at this point has a very short life expectancy. My personal discovery produced one crop.

Today there is an effort afoot to restore the American Chestnut Tree to our forest. This effort is being led by the American Chestnut Foundation. The reforestation effort is a result of crossing the American Chestnut Tree with an Asian Chestnut Tree. The Asian Chestnut Tree is blight resistant. The current cross is 15/16 American Chestnut Tree and 1/16 Asian Chestnut. This insures the qualities we desire in tree size provided only by the American variety while transferring the blight resistance of the Asian variety. Seedlings can now be purchased from nurseries. These are about 12 inches when purchased and grow at the rate of 24 inches per year. At maturity the trees will be 80 feet tall and have a crown of 30 to forty feet. In wholesale quantities (250) the trees sell for about \$3 each.

For additional information on the Chestnut Blight and the effort to restore the tree to the forest, many sources are available online. The national headquarters for The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) is located in Asheville. In January 2015, Lisa Thompson was appointed President and CEO of the organization.



TACF National Office  
50 North Merrimon Avenue, Suite 115  
Asheville, NC 28801  
828-281-0047  
<http://www.acf.org/>  
email: [chestnut@acf.org](mailto:chestnut@acf.org)

Locally, I have found chestnut sprouts on the vacant lot between 473 and 627 English Ridge. There must be rootstock spread across the lot as the sprouts are scattered. The one tree that reached maturity and died is located next to the road in the middle of the lot.

Should the residents of Wolf Laurel consider the possibility of restoring the American Chestnut Tree to the many areas of Wolf Laurel designated as preserve? The Chestnut Tree is magnificent in bloom. It might be time to consider the legacy that we might leave behind for the future residents of our community in the mountains.

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## Lots for Sale

69 Bee Tree	\$19,900
584 El Miner	25,000
235 Hanging Rk	37,500
206 SpringBrook	35,500



**3 Bedrooms 2 Bath Log Cabin** with LONG RANGE VIEWS over looking the ski slopes. Open Floor Plan, Kitchen, Dining Area, Great Room with Vaulted Ceilings, Split Floor Plan and the lower level offers Media/ Game Room. The back property line is the Mars Hill Water Shed...Lots of decking for entertaining. Furnishings are negotiable. **MLS 552475**



**1 Bedroom 1 Bath Condo** with **Long Range Views**, Completely Remodeled, New Granite counter tops, New Wood flooring, Gas fireplace, 1st floor unit for easy year round access.. No Stairs ! Enjoy your Long Range View while dining on your Private Deck.

**MLS 488961**



**Custom 3 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath** Open, Bright, & Airy, Vaulted Ceilings Master Bedroom Suite, SS Kitchen, Hardwood & Carpet flooring, Stone Fireplace, Central Heating, Ceiling, Fans, Central Vacuum, Screened Patio, over 1,000 ft of decking, fenced in yard for your pets & also includes the lot next door. 1.5 Total Acres. **MLS 519955**



**Remodeled 4 Bedroom, 3 Bath Ski in, Ski out** home with Long Range Views. Split floor plan, Open, Vaulted Ceilings, Wood flooring, Fireplace, & Game room. Large Decks for Entertaining, Great Family Home or Investment/Rental Property. **MLS 451100 \$399,000**



**Freshly Painted 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath** Home, Open, Bright, & Airey, Vaulted Ceilings, Wood flooring, Large Fireplace and Back deck...Lots of Space for Family & Friends. Easy Year round access.

**MLS 534546 \$125,000**



**Immaculate Golf Course 3 Bedroom 2 Bath** home Open, Bright, & Airy, Wood & Tile flooring, Large Living Room & Kitchen, Stone fireplace, lots of space for family & friends.

**MLS 514214 \$298,000**

## Christmas Party Honors Ebbs Chapel VFD Fire Fighters



The Upper Laurel Community Organization sponsored a Christmas party to honor the Ebbs Chapel Volunteer Fire Department on December 15, 2014, at the Ebbs Chapel School Community Center. It was a wonderful evening of food, gifts, and celebration.

Our community is fortunate to have this group of 22 dedicated fire fighters, 17 of whom are EMT certified.

During the festivities, Chief Josh Jenkins commented, "This group continues to answer every call -- 246 this year -- with tireless professionalism." He indicated that they also excel in professional development. This year, three people have earned EMT credentials and three have earned fire fighter II status. Clint English was awarded Fire Fighter of the Year.

After dinner Santa Claus presented gifts and stockings filled with fruit and candy to all the fire fighters' children and each fire fighter received a gift card. This event was made possible by the generous donations from Wolf Laurel residents and Upper Laurel area churches.



# New Year, New Season, New Name?? WHAT??

By Earlene Shofi



Yes! We would like to rename the “Amenities Program.” There has always been some confusion regarding use of the Village facilities; thus we feel that a new name that clearly signifies “Membership” would be very helpful, especially to those unfamiliar with Wolf Laurel. Our goal is to find a name that best describes the Village facilities, the Amenities Programs, and also reflects that this is a Membership based organization.

The WLPOA Amenities Committee sent an email out in January to our members asking for their opinions regarding a name change for “Amenities” and also requesting suggestions for a new name. The reaction has been very

positive resulting in many recommendations for a title worthy of our wonderful Village facilities and programs. The final choice will probably not be available before printing of this TOB issue, as another email with the six most popular new name choices will go out to the membership for a final consensus. The Amenities Committee will compile the results and choose the most suitable name, based upon your input. Only the name will change -- our goal of providing programs that are based upon your interests will remain the same!



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# THE VIEW FROM MY DECK

By Gwynne Beneke

Beginning with the Spring '15 issue of *THE TOP OF THE BALD* Rich Ashley will become our newsletter's editor. Rich and I collaborated on this issue, and I was very impressed by his attention to detail as well as by his ideas and natural savvy, as we discussed and worked on putting the issue together. The TOB will not change in its basic format, but Rich has some great ideas to bolster your enjoyment of our mountain's most inclusive and comprehensive publication.

I have been the editor of our Wolf Laurel POA's newsletter for over four years. During that time the publication grew from one being primarily text driven to one replete with color photos and regularly recurring feature articles, covering and focusing on the fulfilling lifestyle that we enjoy here in Wolf Laurel. The sharing of accurate information has been the priority of the years of my editorship, always emphasizing the *what, where, and when*.

But facts and bare-boned information can get really boring, both to write and to read. And life is too short to be boring. Feature articles, "The View from My Deck," "Meet Your Neighbors," "Restaurant Ramblings," "Covenant Corner," and "From the Library" have added variety of both content and the unique voices of our community's writers.

The addition of photos, highlighting mountain events and reminding us of the wonder and beauty of our mountains, has been one of the most commented upon facets of *The Top of the Bald*. We have many outstanding resident photographers living here; anyone can submit photos and the variety of subject is enhanced through the lens of each individual artist. THANK YOU, PHOTOGRAPHERS, FOR SHARING! Keep those photos coming, as Rich has said that he will continue to publish all that there's room for.

I want to thank you for allowing me to bring *The Top of the Bald* into your homes; its distribution by email, which began two years ago, has made its publication more cost efficient and timely. As it grew in both quality and girth, the Board supported its changing from bi-monthly to quarterly publication. As a volunteer that change gave me and those who contributed the opportunity to take a breath between issues!

We owe a big debt to Laura Ponder of Dancing Moon Print Solutions, Inc. – Laura does the layout, solicits the advertising, shoots the issue to Jim Landry for email distribution, and prints at least 100 hard copies (FREE!); the quality of the finished product is due to her diligence, generosity, and



genuine interest in the health and growth of our community. We have had a lot of fun, collaborating and putting issues together.

It's also time to thank all those who have contributed photos, written articles, and occasionally proofread behind me: To the WLPOA Board, past and present, for your support, interest, and contributions of articles and advice. Specifically to Jim Landry, David Schmidt, Larry Smith, Leslie Donovan, Gene Woolf, Cathy Johnson, Nancy Landry, Chuck Freeman, Cindy Tucker, Debbie Wallace – the writers, who have never let me down when I asked (or begged!) for articles, reflecting their expertise and interests. To the current and past presidents of the Board, Fred Tygart, Frank Perritt (we miss you!), and John Beneke (my resident proofreader), thank you for your unwavering support. To the editorial board, Lynn Mathews and Nancy Schmidt, thanks for agreeing to be there if/when your advice is required.

The TOB by its nature is and must continue to be a joint effort; it is important that it reflect the rainbow of experience, thought, opinion, and insight of our community. It provides our residents with accurate information regarding not only the activities of the Amenities program and the WLPOA, but it also keeps residents apprised of community wide activities open to all who visit the mountain. It welcomes suggestions, submissions, and queries.

My tenure as editor has brought challenges to my knowledge of journalism, a better understanding of the workings of the mountain, and great personal satisfaction as the TOB grew into its own professionally. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of it. I will continue to be involved as Consulting Editor and will contribute as a writer, as Rich requests. When you see Rich, support his efforts as you have supported me! And patronize those businesses who advertise their services regularly in your *Top of the Bald*.

# TRAVELING IN THE WOLF LAUREL LIBRARY

By Gene Woolf

For the armchair traveler, the far away dreamer, or those lucky ones who are actually planning a trip, the VLPOA Community Library has an interesting assortment of travel guides and travel writing with more coming. The travel section is to the left as you enter the Community Center, in the cozy area by the round table.

## Travel Guides

Travel guides come in many forms. Some are primarily about where to stay and what to eat. Some are in-depth looks at a country's history, people and culture. Some are lavishly illustrated with a lot of color photos and very good maps. With the former, the hotel and restaurant type such as FODORS and FROMMERS, it is important to have the current year's edition. Most of this type of guide will have the year on the front cover. With the latter type, those that deal with what the country is like, the edition is not as important, as the information is timeless.

Described by many as the current world standard, the LONELY PLANET series covers almost any country, many cities; it even has special guides on languages and trekking. These guides are very good for an overall view of the country, as well as being adequate for dining and sleeping. They are not issued every year.

The DK EYEWITNESS and CADAGAN guides are full of beautiful color photos and maps, as well as well-written articles,



covering art, architecture, neighborhoods and history. In fact, the LONDON OBSERVER says the "Eyewitness" series is the best guide for reading for reading's sake.

The ROUGH GUIDES are aimed more at the traveler on a budget, who may want to "rough" it and blend in with the local culture. THE MICHELIN (red and blue series) are standard for driving and routes (red), and eating (blue). In fact, for a European restaurant, mention in the MICHELIN BLUE GUIDE is vital.

## Travel Writing

Some of my favorite reads have been travel tales, both from long ago and current. I will make up a title here: "My Journey in a Jeep Across Boola-Boolastan." I am hooked. Our library has many good selections and will be adding more. Some of our current holdings include the following:

Paul Theroux is one of the most prolific travel writers of our generation, whose love of trains and basic wanderlust set him on the long road to many lands. From his first book, THE GREAT RAILWAY BAZAAR, possibly still his best, to his last, LAST TRAIN TO ZONA VERDE, Theroux has covered much of our planet. He can be funny, tedious, rewarding, boring, mean to some of the locals he meets,

self-centered, but usually interesting and offering great insight into the cultures he is passing through.

If you like England, consider the work of Susan Allen Toth. MY LOVE AFFAIR WITH ENGLAND, ENGLAND AS YOU LIKE IT, and ENGLAND FOR ALL SEASONS are charming, witty, timeless and well written. She is a Minnesotan who has made a literary career of sharing and explaining England with us.

Another favorite of mine is the late British writer Eric Newby (1923-2006). His classics included THE LAST GRAIN RACE, 1953, about sailing around Cape Horn on a Windjammer; A SHORT WALK IN THE HINDU KUSH about Himalayan Trekking; THE GREAT RED TRAIN RIDE, across Russia on the Trans-Siberian, and my favorite: WHEN THE SNOW COMES, THEY WILL TAKE YOU AWAY. Newby was an officer in the British Army who escaped from German captivity in Italy, fled to the high Apennines, met his future wife, was recaptured, but survived to give us all these great reads.

An American writer who is still with us is Tony Horwitz (1958-). His writing has touched on Iraq (BAGHDAD WITHOUT A MAP), the American South (CONFEDERATES IN THE ATTIC), the retracing of Captain Cook's Pacific voyages (BLUE LATITUDES), and a consideration of the early discovery of the Americas by Europeans and their impact on the natives of the New World (A VOYAGE LONG AND STRANGE: REDISCOVERING THE NEW WORLD). All are well written, interesting, excellent.

We will continue in a later issue with travel accounts set in the USA and Canada. If you have great travel writers or writing to recommend, please share with us. Bon voyage!

# THE EBBS CHAPEL AUDITORIUM

By Larry Smith

Ebbs Chapel is the old school house located at the intersection of Puncheon Fork Road and Laurel Valley Road behind the Bright Hope Laurel United Methodist Church. The school closed in the early 70's and fell into disrepair. An effort led by Mike and Joanne Jackson through an organization known as the Upper Laurel Community Organization initiated an effort to save and restore the facility. Of particular concern was the auditorium, which seats 200+ individuals. This effort was then replaced by the Ebbs Chapel Foundation, created to complete the auditorium and return it to use. Through grants, gifts, and fund raising events, this mission made significant progress. In July of 2014, the Madison County Commission revisited the issue of the future of the facility and once again granted a 10 year lease to the Upper Laurel Community Organization with the intent that the facility be used to promote tourism in eastern Madison County. If successful this effort should also contribute to the benefit of the Wolf Laurel property owners.

Upon receiving the lease from the county, the Upper Laurel Community Organization's first challenge was to conduct a deep cleaning of the auditorium and adjoining areas. An army of volunteers pitched in and the auditorium was back in business. Several events were quickly scheduled and successfully performed. Next on the agenda was the correcting of several construction issues which needed immediate attention. The handicapped access pad in the rear of the building had been incorrectly installed, leading to basement flooding. This pad was removed and reinstalled to drain water away from the building. The doorway was raised and the floor and sub-flooring was replaced. The driveway around the building was cut to grade to allow draining and was completed to facilitate easier access. Then we tackled the basement. Flooding had resulted in damage which needed correcting. The damaged drywall was removed and mold remediation accomplished. Meanwhile efforts were made to bring the facility to compliance with current fire codes. Extinguishers were purchased and mounted. Fire alarms were repaired and tested. Fireproof doors were installed where required. Over the years the new metal roof had begun to show signs of needing maintenance. A vent was reinstalled and missing screws

were replaced. Finally a forced air gas furnace was installed to heat the auditorium, which both protects the lighting system and prolongs the performance season into the fall. In addition, the organization completed the concession stand on the adjacent ball field. A significant number of issues were solved by a dedicated group of volunteers in a short time span. This is especially true, when one considers that the funds had to be raised to purchase materials. Over the winter, the Upper Laurel Community Organization purchased a sound system for events occurring both in the auditorium and for outdoor festivals. We also converted our Internal Revenue Service tax status to enable the organization to receive charitable contributions. We are now eagerly awaiting the return of the summer weather to continue our efforts. Our future remodeling goals include completion of the window frames on the interior of the auditorium and replacement of the former front entrance on the auditorium. These will enhance the appearance of the building. The architect who was consulted concerning the current improvements indicated that the front door was not practical for egress because the steps were impractical. Therefore the doorway will be covered with drywall, disappearing on the interior. On the exterior a faux door will be created to match the original appearance of the building.

New policies and fees have been designed for the use of the facility with the intent of encouraging frequent use. Rent is a minimal \$150 for the auditorium. Rent for the food service area is an additional \$35. We hope to encourage talent from across the region to use the auditorium to provide a weekly venue of activity. A location off an Interstate Highway with easy access, should contribute to the eventual success of this endeavor. We are working closely with the Madison County Arts Council, the Barn Alliance and other community organizations to promote our activities. We have a web site at [ebbschapelauditorium.com](http://ebbschapelauditorium.com). Nonprofit organizations are not charged a fee for use of the facility.

If you would like to contribute time or resources to this effort please contact Larry Smith 828-689-3858 or 772-203-7867

# 2015 Village Amenities Programs & Events

By Cindy Tucker

2014 provided so many great, varied opportunities for our members, and 2015 is looking even better! Many wonderful community members make the variety and quality of these events possible by volunteering their time and talents. As of this writing, exact schedules cannot be posted, but I will send updates and keep you informed as we get closer to the beginning of our season and continue the weekly updates and reminders throughout the season - via both e-mail and on our website - [www.wolflaurelpoa.com](http://www.wolflaurelpoa.com).

Our amazing fitness programs will continue providing a great variety of opportunities to meet the varied needs of our members. Regularly scheduled tennis and pickleball will keep the Village courts hopping. So many of our programs reflect your interests in enjoying social time with friends old and new and entertaining the taste buds! The Friday Night Socials and the Monday Night Potlucks will bring members together to enjoy good food, time with friends and give you the opportunity to make new friends and meet new neighbors. Gourmet Cooking Classes, Couples Cooking Classes, and Dining out with Friends are some of our most popular programs. The Wolf Laurel Wandering Ladies will travel around the area to visit interesting towns close by to learn more about all Western North Carolina has to offer (and you can bet a wonderful luncheon is included). Our educational programs are fun and varied. Life saving CPR/AED Classes will be offered for certification this year. We're also planning an informative, challenging Self Defense Class. We hope to add a Fresh Water Stream Fishing Class and a Book Signing by a local plant expert. In the Arts & Crafts, we'll have varied opportunities to learn new skills and have a blast doing it. This is just the beginning! We'll continue to add programs and events as we determine adequate interest levels.



There are a few special events you'll want to put on your calendar now! And, of course, be looking for updates and future announcements about these great special occasions:

- Horseback Riding Camp at Wolf Laurel Stables will take place June 22nd - 26th (contact me for registration forms).
- Our Independence Day Celebration will be on Saturday, July 4th - a day full of activities in coordination with The Wolf Laurel Country Club!
- The FAMOUS Village Wolf Cubs Kid's Camp will take place the week after the 4th - Monday, July 6th through Friday, July 10th (please contact me for registration forms).
- Vacation Bird School, Monday, July 6th through Friday, July 10th (please contact me for registration forms).
- For Labor Day Weekend, we will celebrate with an Oyster Roast in the Village on Friday, August 28th.

Our returning Village Staff members Jim Deloatch and Bill Martin will be talking with all our visitors and helping to maintain our facilities. This year, we are fortunate to welcome them back! We will be hiring up to two additional staff members, so if you would like more information to find if this may be a good opportunity for you, a friend or family member, please contact me and I'll be happy to provide all information you need. Staff will be in place 7 days a week to assist our members and guests from May through October.

Keep an eye out as Spring approaches for more details and announcements. If you have ideas about programs you would like to see offered, please contact me: [cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com](mailto:cindy@wolflaurelpoa.com). See you all soon!

# VILLAGE VIBES

## New Procedures For The Amenities Rental Program

If your home is currently in the Amenities rental pool, the procedure to allow use of the Village Amenities facilities by your lessee has changed. In the past, those in the WLPOA rental program paid their regular annual Amenities dues, plus an annual fee of \$150.00, to remain in the rental program. There is no longer an additional annual rental fee for Amenities members, as a new "membership" status has been created for your lessee(s). Charges will be based on the number of days the lessee uses the Village facilities. If your renter chooses not to use the facilities, there is no charge. The lessee will be required to fill out a membership application and give it to the Amenities Director in the Village Community Center along with appropriate payment, before using any of the facilities. All adult persons (lessees), must agree to carry identification cards as issued by the WLPOA office, as well as agree to abide by all WLPOA rules and regulations. This new membership is called "Term Memberships"; it allows use of all Village facilities during the membership period.

The following is a schedule of membership fees:

- a) Term of 3 days - \$50.00
- b) Term of 7 days - \$100.00
- c) Term of 35 days - \$150.00
- d) Term of 95 days - \$300.00
- e) Term of 180 days - \$350.00

There is an additional charge of \$15.00 per person per day in excess of six.

Please note that these fees may be paid by either the lessee or owner/agent, and those eligible to enroll their lessees must be members of the Amenities rental program. For the complete "2014 -5 Term Memberships Rule", please visit the WLPOA web site, at [www.wolflaurelpoa.com](http://www.wolflaurelpoa.com). **Owners in the Rental Program or their agents are strongly encouraged to inform potential lessees that use of Amenities is permitted only for Term Members.**



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# MY WORK AND MY PASSION

By Leslie Donovan

Last year, I was asked to be the Auction chairperson for the Wolf Laurel Hospice of Madison County fundraiser. This year, I will not only volunteer again, but now, emphasizing my commitment, I work for Hospice of Madison County. As an RN, I make home visits to patients along with our Hospice team of social workers, chaplains, nurse assistants, and physicians.

Now that I have been working with the team for six months, I am happy to say that I love my work. I have learned a lot about the county that I now call home. I have driven all over the county, from Spill Corn to Forks of Ivy. I have seen patients from age 50 to 103. I have learned that mountain folks are hearty folks and all that haulin' wood and farming are good for you. I have learned that love of family goes a long way, and when someone doesn't have long to live, there is a keen focus on quality of life that brings comfort and joy.

It is common for people to say to me, "How do you deal with death all the time?" I believe there is the misconception that it must be a sad job for a nurse. But, on the contrary, I am touched by the way that death can cause people to focus on what is truly important in life, which can bring a degree of contentment.

Our chaplain, Emma Churchman, and licensed medical social worker, Connie Maney, will be starting Bereavement Groups in various locations around the county for anyone in Madison County who has been affected by the death of a family member. The Wolf Laurel donations help fund bereavement staff, mailings, Tree of Life, education, and now, bereavement groups. The largest expense for our Hospice is bereavement services, and while it is a Medicare mandated service, it is not reimbursed by Medicare. Another large expense is providing hospice care for people who are uninsured, since we provide care without regard to financial means.

As I continue to visit patients, I am always grateful for my health, my relationships, and my career choice. I know one thing for sure -- when I am near the end of my life, I want Hospice care and I want to be at my Wolf Laurel home looking at the mountains, listening to music, sipping coffee with my family and friends around me, telling stories, laughing, and holding my hand. Most patients that are near the end of life will sometimes start talking to



their friends and family who have passed before them and begin their transition slowly into the next life. What a comfort to know what's ahead.

We are about getting started with our fundraising efforts, and hope that you will participate in some way -- buying a plant at our plant sale, attending the Silent Auction, bidding on an African Safari at the Live Auction, playing in the Golf Tournament and/or making a donation online at <https://www.wolflaurelforhospice.org/>.

For more information, visit the website or talk to our Chairperson, Eric Jennings, Co-chair, John Ionoff, or Chair emeritus, Don Mathis.

# LOVE FOR HOSPICE

Afterword by Eric Jennings

We have some exciting events planned for the Annual Benefit for Hospice 2015! Please take a look at the website <https://www.wolflaurelforhospice.org/> where you can find out more details about the upcoming events as details are confirmed. You may also sign up for email updates, and "follow us" on Facebook. Most importantly, you may make a full donation or choose the option that will allow you to make monthly recurring donations via PayPal or a credit card anytime of the year.

Last year an impressive amount of \$65,000 was donated to Hospice of Madison County! However

with your help, we hope to beat that amount for 2015. This year efforts are being made to reach further into the community to elevate awareness and increase funds. As always, thank you for your exceptionally charitable support. We look forward to setting new records!

Tentative dates for the 2015 Hospice events:

Spring Plant Sale ~ May 24

Golf Tournament ~ July 17

Farmers Market ~ July 18

Dinner and Auction ~ July 18

Hearts for Hospice ~ August 29-30

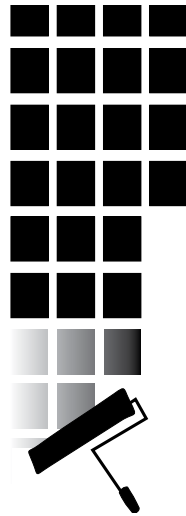
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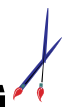
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# SNOW! What's It Good For Anyway?

by Jim Landry

As I look out over my deck, I wonder "Where's the snow?" It could be that by the time this article goes to press we will be knee deep in snow. But, as of this writing, it's late January and the woods are brown and the golf course green. At this point in time, the skis should be ready for a mid-winter tune-up and we should be talking about our snow adventures.

As it has happened, November started out promising with nearly 27 inches. Some NC ski areas dared an opening, but it just wasn't really cold long enough to make sense for an opening at Wolf Ridge. That opportunity didn't happen until late December, and we owe thanks for that to snow making machines and cold weather.

Now you're probably saying "What's the problem, you're getting snow on the slopes and that should be good enough." Wrong! Now we all know all the usual bad points of a winter season, but as with most topics, there is a flip side:

- Not that we need a string of blizzards, but give me a few winter storms so that we can experience winter. At Wolf Laurel, we greet each of the four distinctive seasons with open arms, welcoming the beauty and differences in each. After all, we all remember that

beloved Princess Summer-Fall-Winter-Spring of Howdy Doody with her most beautiful name!

- Since we have winter coats, gloves, scarves, boots, snow shovels, wood splitters, ice scrapers etc., let's put them to good use!
- What's so good about car accidents due to the winter season you say? There are statistics that show winter months yield fewer car accidents than spring and summer months. Accident rates and deaths actually drop, because there is less driving overall -- simply out of caution and the good sense to postpone that trip to the store.
- Severe winters help to keep our senses honed. When one comes up against Mother Nature, one has to think and act with caution to come away the winner.
- The hot drinks, cocoa and coffee, and soups are a welcome addition to the diet, and they go well with the winter sports on TV, cross country skiing, ice skating or at the ski slopes for downhill ski participants.
- Snowfalls provide opportunity to make lots of snow angels and snowmen and to eat icicle popsicles! (Better to leave be the yellow snow.)





- With so many gray days, ground snow illuminates the interior of your home with lovely diffused light.
- Snow on the roads provides much better traction with AWD/4WD than deep mud, which has occurred here due to warmer winter temps and heavy winter rains.
- A good snow covers plants, thus protecting them from deer and rodent damage. Even better, a crusty snow cover makes a good blanket for plants, keeping them protected from frost heaves and severe temperatures.



- Winter weather encourages us to band together, checking on and helping each other during weather events. We've even received calls when away, giving us a "heads up" that a "big storm" was imminent. Now that's neighborliness!

So there you are -- another point of view in the discussion about snow and winter at Wolf Laurel. Just hope we have all our snowstorms during the traditional winter months and not what NC experienced in April, 1987, and May, 1992, with major storms of several feet of snow. So, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow (now!).

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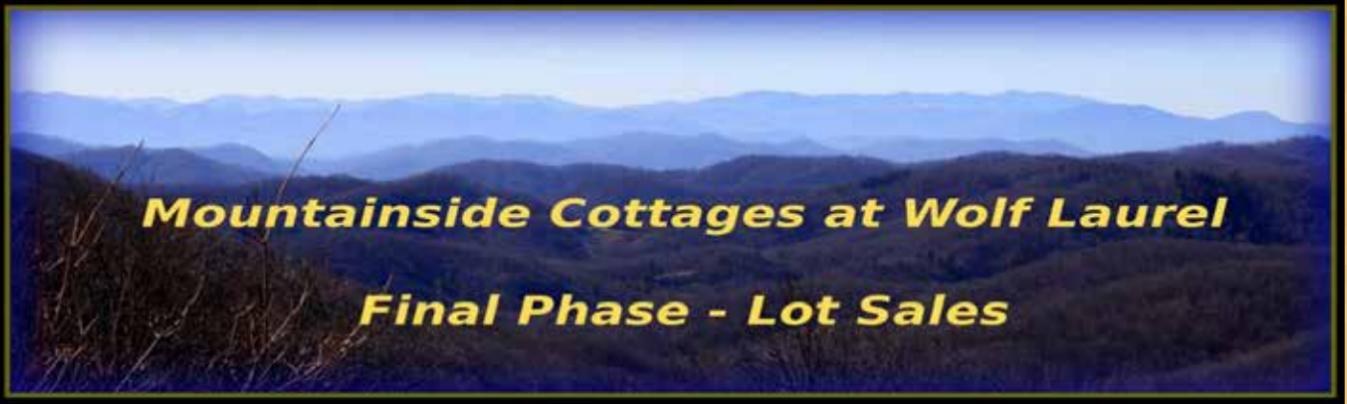
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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article is being reprinted from an earlier edition of THE TOP OF THE BALD to honor the passing of Bud Edwards, the original developer of Wolf Laurel Resort.

## Wolf Laurel – The Early Days

By Kristie Cody

I recently had the opportunity to meet and visit with a very interesting fellow by the name of C. P. “Bud” Edwards, III. For those of you unfamiliar with him, he is the original developer of Wolf Laurel. We spent the afternoon riding around the mountain as Bud took me back in time with his recollections of the early days of this unique and prized mountain community. I will share with you some of Bud’s story.

A simple telephone call some 50 years ago planted the seed for what would later become one of the finest residential developments in the history of the state of North Carolina – Wolf Laurel. A realtor from Mars Hill telephoned Bud Edwards, a developer from Kingsport, TN, to let him know that Mrs. Buck was interested in selling Bald Mountain. Mrs. Buck, widow of the late N.C. House Representative David M. Buck, was getting on up in years and wanted to divide her estate between her son and daughter. Since she couldn’t very well divide Bald Mountain, she decided that she would sell it and divide the money. That’s where Bud came in. He met with Mrs. Buck and agreed to purchase around 3600 – 3700 acres from her. In June of 1964, the purchase was finalized.

The way the land lay was kind of awkward, so Bud wanted to buy some adjacent property to smooth it out. He bought roughly 1100 acres of land, contiguous to the Buck property, from a gentleman by the name of Raleigh English. Shortly thereafter, he bought a smaller tract from the McDaris family. That put the total land he had purchased at a little over 5000 acres. At the time, acreage was calculated using horizontal surveys. In a nutshell, a horizontal survey was kind of like laying a piece of paper over top of a tract of land, drawing a line around the perimeter of the property and calculating the acreage from that. With horizontal surveys, the dips and rises of the mountains aren’t taken into account.

The actual acreage turned out to be roughly 30% more than what the deeds called for. By the time all was said and done, the total land that Bud had purchased was over 6,000 acres.

Working with his family in their real estate firm in Kingsport, Bud had already developed a couple of private golf courses and clubs. Then he went to the “teacher of all – Gatlinburg.” Having learned some valuable lessons there, Bud chuckled and said, “Gatlinburg will teach you everything about real estate.” It was around the same time he was finishing up a 500-acre development there, called Chalet Village, that he bought the property at Wolf Laurel.

The only real plans he had at the time for his newly acquired property was to fish and hunt grouse on it. So that’s what he did, at first. There was an old natural stream on the property that he worked to restore so that the native Brookie trout could thrive and reproduce there. While restoring that stream and hunting for grouse, Bud would take some of his friends to the property with him. Among the friends he brought to his new hunting grounds were Boots Duke and his family and Barney Pendleton and his family. They liked this new place so much that Bud agreed to sell each family a small parcel. There, on what is now El Miner Drive, the first homes in Wolf Laurel were built.

At that point, with some urging from his friends, Bud finally decided to go ahead and build a resort on this beautiful mountain land. The close proximity to his home in Kingsport played a major role in that decision. Of course, it wasn’t just a hop, skip and a jump for him to commute via automobile, but he had access to another method of travel that made it much quicker and easier – he could commute via helicopter. Bud built a heliport near where the Country Club is today and Wolf Laurel was well on its way!

The history of this land gave its name to the mountain resort that was to come. In short, the entrance of white settlers into this region meant that land was cleared for farming, no doubt cutting into the natural habitat of the many grey wolves who lived here. With their natural hunting grounds disturbed, the wolves found that livestock made for easy prey. Of course, the settlers could not allow the slaughter of their livestock to continue and so began aggressively hunting the wolves. The numerous laurel thickets meandering through the mountainside provided the wolves with one last stronghold. The settlers, however, proved to be formidable opponents. It is said that the last of the wolves was killed on Bald Mountain. Due to that history, the area on this side of Bald Mountain became known as Wolf Laurel. It was only fitting to recognize that history in the naming of the new resort.

Developing and selling land in such a remote location did lend a number of unique challenges to overcome. For one, there were no hotels or any other places nearby for people to stay when they came to look at – and hopefully fall in love with – the property Bud had available. To deal with that situation, he built about 7 or 8 small cabins for the purpose of providing potential buyers with a place to stay while they explored the property. All of these cabins, called “cribs”, were original pioneer log cabins that he purchased in Madison County. He found them by simply driving through the countryside, looking around for just the right kind of structure. He and his crew would disassemble the cabins, carefully marking each log (A1, A2, A3, A4 and so on) so that they could be relocated to the mountain and reassembled. These “cribs” can be found today along Village Lane, just above what is now the Community Center (a.k.a. the “Old Barn”).

As any developer worth his salt understands, Bud knew that he had to “prime the pump,” so to speak, and create some activity in order to entice buyers to the mountain. That meant he had to build some amenities. The golf course would be the first amenities project to get underway. As Bud described, “Taking down trees to

put in a golf course leaves a lot of scars on the earth. That takes time to heal. It takes a lot of time for a new golf course to come into its growth and to be playable.” Building a golf course in the mountainous terrain proved a unique challenge. “I had 2 nationally known golf course architects look at this project with me,” Bud recalled. “They said it would be impossible to build a golf course there. They told me, ‘Mr. Edwards, go down and buy 150 acres there in a bottom some place.’” Bud didn’t want to do that. He wanted the golf course on the property he was developing and he “felt that it could be done,” so on he went with it. Fueled by his determination to stick with his plans and do what they said couldn’t be done, construction of the golf course began. As the trees came down, breathtakingly beautiful vistas were opened up along the way. Premium-priced lots were laid out alongside the course. As Bud put it, “People wanted to be near the golf course, no matter if they played or not.” Aside from the lots purchased by the Duke and the Pendleton families, the lots around the golf course were the first to sell.

Financing a project of this size was a daunting task, to say the least. Banks just would not lend money on a development. It was too risky. There was, however, a relatively new option available. In the early 1950’s, the federal government created the Small Business Administration (SBA) to “aid, counsel, assist and protect, insofar as is possible, the interests of small business concerns.” SBA loans were primarily geared toward projects that would create employment in weak economies. At the time, Madison County fit the bill as a weak economy. Bud went to the Northwestern Bank in North Wilkesboro, where he had done some banking prior to the Wolf Laurel venture. They could see that this project would bring an influx of development, thereby creating jobs in Madison County. While he had to use his own money to get the ball rolling with the infrastructure of the development, building and promotion, Bud was able to obtain SBA loans for the golf course and the ski operation.

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Even still, the location of this unique property presented another, quite sizeable hurdle. Puncheon Fork Road was un-paved and “rough as a washboard” at the time. Some folks would actually get half way up Puncheon Fork and turn around, refusing to go any further up that horrible mountain road. “It’s hard to develop a project in the mountains that’s not near anything and five miles from an improved road,” Bud recalled. At the time, real estate was all about location, location, location and, of course, ease of access. “Without that,” he declared, “you’ve really got to do a good job of promotion and your amenities.”

Bud’s brother-in-law’s brother, Wick Exum, was a close friend of a fellow by the name of Stikeleather, who just happened to be head of the department of roads for the state of North Carolina. Mr. Stikeleather came up to the property a few times with Wick to spend the weekend. He was obviously impressed with what he saw. It was through some “politicking” that Puncheon Fork finally became a paved road, providing much better access to the growing resort.

Playing up the remote location, Wolf Laurel was appropriately billed as “The Great Escape.” With such a large, rough piece of property, it was difficult to see it all from the ground. Making good use of the heliport, Bud had 2 helicopters that would fly potential buyers over the property for a bird’s eye view. His pilots would also take people working on the mountain and their kids for rides in the helicopters. I’ll bet there are still folks around here today who can remember going on one of those rides.

With roughly 20 miles of roads in place in Wolf Laurel, Bud purchased 6 pale blue Ford convertibles for his sales team. All were manual transmission and all had steel plates mounted underneath to protect the oil pans from the rocky, rough terrain. Each convertible was also equipped with a radio. Near where the Country Club is now, was a centralized radio control station with someone manning it all the time. When a deal had been made on a lot, the salesman would radio in and the paperwork would begin. Staying in close contact allowed the salesmen to keep track of which properties were available and which weren’t. A sales team traveling all over the mountainside can

get pretty hungry. Bud recalls that there was no place nearby to eat except for Little Creek Café, owned and operated at that time by Mrs. Edna Boone. It was just a little place where she also did some sewing and sold quilts. Bud remembers that he would buy 3 or 4 pies from her whenever he came through. Once he started developing Wolf Laurel, he would get Mrs. Boone to come up on the mountain and cook for everybody. The way Bud describes the “great big pan of biscuits” she used to prepare it’s plain to see that he still remembers exactly how good they tasted.

At the time Bud purchased the land, there were a few existing structures on the property. The cabin that now houses the mailroom was already there. The “Old Barn” that now houses the POA, Amenities and Roads & Security offices was there, although Bud did remodel it a time or two. He used to have bands come play for dances held inside that old barn. Bud also remembers “an old man... a great, big giant of a man” who lived in the cabin just above the barn. He had the biggest hands he’d ever seen. He lived there by himself when Bud bought the property and died shortly thereafter. Although Bud says he just left the man alone, he does remember seeing him many times sitting outside on a massive rocking chair, quietly whittling away at something.

In addition to the golf course, Bud had plans for another major amenity for this growing resort. A ski area would satisfy the need for some winter fun for folks on the mountain. That project, of course, was not without challenges of its own. Who would have guessed that a strike in New York would affect the construction of a ski area here in Western North Carolina? Well it sure did. Bud had ordered a Poma lift for the upper part of the mountain. That was a particular type of lift requiring skiers to hold onto it, with skis still on the snow, while it pulled them up the mountain. It was shipped to the United States by boat. Due to the ongoing strike in New York at the time, the ski lift sat in the harbor for 2 or 3 months before Bud could get it unloaded and brought down to Wolf Laurel. In addition to the Poma lift, Bud also installed a chair lift in the ski area. The cables had to be spliced together to get the length needed for the lift. Only a handful of men in the country were trained to do that type of work. The cables had

to be spliced into each other for a distance of at least 120 feet or so in order to maintain the strength needed to operate the lift. Bud can remember watching a man work patiently and diligently, splicing the cables, day after day until, finally, they were completed.

During the time development was well underway, Bud recalls that his foreman, Clay Jenkins, had “the best little hunting dog” for going after grouse. Boots Duke called Bud one day while he was in his office. Boots wanted to do some hunting that day but Bud had appointments to keep. He told Boots that he could take Clay’s dog along with him. Clay took Boots and the dog up to the Tennessee side of the Bald. They agreed that Clay would pick him and the dog up at 5:00 that afternoon. Later on that evening, Clay came rushing down the mountain to find Bud. “I’ve been up there, it’s getting dark and I can’t find Boots,” he told Bud. So Clay, Bud and Lonnie, Bud’s bodyguard & driver at the time, jumped in the jeep and up the mountain they went. When they got to the Bald and saw no sign of Boots or the dog, Bud told Clay to fire off a couple of shots. They listened for a response. Nothing. So Clay fired a couple more shots. After a bit, they finally heard a response off in the distance. Bud told the men he was going down in that direction to look for his friend. Lonnie, who Bud described as, “one of the roughest, meanest men you’ve ever seen but he was very loyal to me,” wouldn’t hear of letting Bud go alone and insisted he was going with him. Finally, about 3 or 4:00 in the morning, they spotted the glow of a small campfire up on a ledge. The men made their way through the darkness toward that fire and, much to their relief, they found Boots and the dog. They were alive and well. Boots, who Bud remembered having emphysema, had gotten down in there and just

couldn’t make his way back out. The terrain on that side of the mountain was very rough. In the meantime, word of the missing men had spread and created quite a bit of action on the mountain. Rescue units from North Carolina and Tennessee converged on the Bald, drawing an impressive crowd. Unable to locate the men, everyone had become quite concerned. Then, just before day break, a game warden by the name of Ramsey found them. He radioed to the rescue units and said that he had “found somebody.” Due to the static-y radio reception in the area, it came across as he had “found some body.” You can just imagine the stir that caused in the crowd until they all made it back to the top of the mountain!

No doubt there are a million stories that could be told about Wolf Laurel, from the early times through present day. What I have offered here is a mere glimpse into the history of this wonderful mountain community as seen through the eyes of C. P. Edwards, III, a man who had the astuteness and sheer tenacity to bring his vision to fruition. In closing, I would like to extend a heartfelt “Thank you” to Mr. Edwards for taking the time to share his memories with me. I consider it a privilege to have met and recorded some of the recollections of a man who has accomplished so much in his lifetime.

# ON THE ROAD AGAIN:

## From the WL Roads Maintenance and Security Board

By Chuck Freeman

So far this winter has been relatively mild (SAY YEAH FOR JASON'S SALT AND SAND STOCKPILES). The month of November was unusually cold; with a few days of light snow and chill in January, residents and guests have been comfortable and the roads have been in good shape, thanks to the work Jason and his Road Maintenance crew have done.

The skiing season has been quiet, which has taken some of the load off our roads and off the shoulders of our Security folks. January finally allowed a week of snow making that produced a deep base and it is still in place as we move into February. Despite the new base, the Security Staff has reported a less than normal flow of skiers through the gate. However, with almost two months remaining in the traditional ski season, anything can happen.

The Roads Maintenance and Security Board has been working on finalizing an updated *Declaration of Protective Covenants, Restrictions and Reservations*, reflecting the change from a developer-controlled document to one that is written by the owners of Wolf Laurel (US!). Additionally, the Board intends to inform all our owners by email when the draft document is ready for viewing; instructions will be posted on our website for owners to provide any concerns, questions, or suggested changes. The Board urges everyone to make themselves familiar with the contents of the draft, as all will be impacted by the document, when it is finally recorded with the counties. The Board has spent considerable time and effort in reviewing and revising the existing *Declaration* with an eye to retaining the original intent of the covenants, its restrictions and reservations, while reflecting our new status as an owner-controlled community.

The Board has made a number of revisions to the sections dealing with the Architectural Review Board (ARB) that will impact us all. Following approval of the new *Declaration*, the ARB is expected to update the *Architectural Guidelines* to reflect the changes in the new *Declaration* and to more closely tie fees for construction and renovations to the impact that such projects make on our roads. Recently the Board authorized the ARB to hire a part-time project manager to serve as the primary point of contact and inspection agent for construction and renovation permits in accordance with the *Architectural Guidelines*. Mr. Philip Banks will be providing part-time support to Wolf Laurel, as he is a fulltime project manager for Duke Energy. Philip has extensive experience in managing construction projects in the unique, steep slope, Western North Carolina area. He holds a master's degree in Construction Management from Cullowhee and is a member of a number of professional organizations, including the Project Management Institute, the Associated General Contractors, and the US Green Building Council. In the short time that Philip has been with us, he has done a great job of professionalizing the application process of our Architectural Guidelines, including helping the ARB develop a new set of permits and fees that reflect our newfound freedom as a community. In particular his expertise will be helpful as our guidelines become more reflective of the new emphasis on steep slope construction, in keeping with new laws passed by NC in recent years.

The fees borne by property owners are revenue neutral (i.e., they are not a source of revenue for the Wolf Laurel RMSHOA) and are intended to cover administrative and inspections costs. The fees are intended also to cover the considerable damage to our roadways that are attributable to construction and renovation projects, both immediate and long term.



# Through the Haze

By Jack Trousdale

I suppose you never know why you are led to do certain things. Sometimes decisions made turn out to be fabulous experiences, sometimes not. For some strange reason I thought that making myself available for WLPOA Board elections was, at least, a way to meet more residents. That nice phone call asking me to run a couple of years ago led to just that end. I met more folks and I wasn't elected. Delightful. Then, due to some really unknown force, I decided to run a second time. It was looking real good. I was meeting folks I hadn't met so far. Then the unthinkable happened. One of the candidates withdrew from the process, leaving just enough candidates who were running to fill the board. Whoa! I had become a member of the WLPOA Board.

This would be nice. A meeting once a month and a chance to offer a newbie's observations about "things." I might be handed a committee chair but, being new, that would do it. Maybe I would get the "Keep Up the Bulletin Board by the Package House" committee or some other menial learn-the-ropes job. Not to be. Before I knew what was afoot, I had been nominated for and elected to the position of Treasurer.

I had suddenly become the one who held the purse strings. If money was needed for some project or other there was no choice: I had to be contacted! Well, that's not really true either. I learned very quickly that our excellent Office Manager, Ronnie Rice, would call and ask me to drop by to sign a check. That's when I found out. The other board members were all out and about tending to their assigned areas/tasks and they needed money. Receipt submitted, check expected. Check signed and distributed. Since payroll is on automatic deposit, I didn't have to worry about that. Big relief!

Okay. I got it. This isn't too bad. Really nice, overall. Then Fred Tygart said: "Please have your budget proposal ready for the January Board meeting! BUDGET? Good heavens, I still didn't know what all of the line items represented! The learning curve was not so bad however. Looking through the haze has worked out, though. The 2014 financial statements has closed out successfully and I believe that we're ready for a great run in 2015. Actually I've sort of enjoyed learning something new! There's a feeling of satisfaction when all the numbers balance out. Seriously, the WLPOA

financials are professionally organized, executed and audited. Continuity is top priority. With some tutoring from former treasurer and president, John Beneke, I've settled comfortably into the treasurer's routine.

Please note below that the End of the Year, 2014, financial report is presented. If you have any questions, please feel free to call. (I guess it's only fair to tell you that Carol and I have left the mountain and won't return until May so don't hesitate to leave a message.)

You can be assured that the POA Board of Directors has at the center of its mission the absolute best control of the monies entrusted. Every effort is made to be economical and cost efficient. And, certainly, any questions or suggestions that you might have are welcome.

Anticipated income - your fees - are managed to cover expenses. We will maintain our current activity spaces - community center, pavilion, pool, tennis courts, open spaces - in top-notch condition for you. Of course, the activities such as cooking classes, yoga, exercise, knitting, Wandering Ladies, pickle ball, and all the others will be maintained as long as there is interest. Groups activities can be modified, added or discontinued depending upon the requests and recommendations of our paid membership. I mention these because there are always costs involved. In addition, I'm confident that you both like and appreciate the staff. These folks work hard to create a great atmosphere for everyone. They are friendly, pleasant and engaging. We watch the money expended to salaries very carefully to provide maximum assistance to you and your guests while holding the cost to a manageable level. Then there are the unexpected expenses that crop up from time to time. All of these areas cost money. Some cost a lot, some not so much. The beauty of the system is that each of your board members feels a responsibility to do the best cost efficient job possible. As your treasurer, I promise to watch the monies carefully because, if for no other reason, my money is in the kitty, too.

I hope that each of you is having an enjoyable winter and are safe and happy.

7:02 PM  
01/13/15  
Accrual Basis

**Wolf Laurel Property Owners Assoc**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of December 31, 2014**

	Dec 31, 14
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · Bank	
10100 · Business Checking - 0478	3,784
10210 · Money Market - 0764	10,554
10500 · CD - 6937	25,697
10600 · Petty Cash	100
Total 10000 · Bank	40,135
Total Checking/Savings	40,135
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	1,975
Total Accounts Receivable	1,975
Other Current Assets	
12000 · Prepaid Insurance	7,503
13000 · Undeposited Funds	-125
Total Other Current Assets	7,378
Total Current Assets	49,488
Fixed Assets	
14000 · Property, Plant and Equipment	
14100 · Furniture and Fixtures	25,732
14200 · Buildings - Community Center	102,995
14300 · Buildings and Other	216,303
14400 · Land	383,378
14500 · Accumulated Depreciation	-36,336
Total 14000 · Property, Plant and Equipment	692,072
Total Fixed Assets	692,072
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>741,559</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · Accounts Payable	1,057
Total Accounts Payable	1,057
Credit Cards	
20125 · ASB Credit Card	138
Total Credit Cards	138
Other Current Liabilities	
20100 · Payroll Tax Liabilities	2,452
20200 · Lifetime Memberships - Current	26,250
20300 · Hope Fund	1,100
20310 · Meditation Chapel/Garden	150
20320 · Village Beautification	314
20400 · Notes Payable-Current Portion	
20500 · Note Payable- Whitt Current CC	30,000
Total 20400 · Notes Payable-Current Portion	30,000
Total Other Current Liabilities	60,266
Total Current Liabilities	61,461
Long Term Liabilities	
21300 · Lifetime Memberships- Long Term	98,150
Total Long Term Liabilities	98,150
Total Liabilities	159,611
Equity	
30000 · Paid In Capital	321,450

7:02 PM  
01/13/15  
Accrual Basis

**Wolf Laurel Property Owners Assoc**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2014

	Dec 31, 14
31000 · Paid In Contri. - Naming Rights	62,500
32000 · Retained Earnings	91,953
32001 · Unrestricted Net Assets	59,480
Net Income	46,566
Total Equity	581,949
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	741,559

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*Wilson & Terry*  
a u c t i o n   c o m p a n y

*wilsonandterryauction.net*  
**828-645-0695**

The advertisement features a collection of antique furniture and art. On the left is a large wooden chest of drawers with a framed portrait of an elderly man on top. To its right is a smaller wooden cabinet with glass doors displaying various items. Further right is a tall wooden sideboard with a large round mirror on top. In the foreground, there is a small wooden table with a decorative plate on it. The background is a textured grey wall, and the floor is covered with a patterned rug.

### **WLPOA Board of Directors**

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Joanne Wit, Secretary  
Jack Trousdale, Treasurer  
Richard Ashley  
John Beneke  
Tim Donovan

Bruce Gutknecht  
Dick Moeller  
Nancy Schmidt  
Earlene Shofi  
Tom Wallace

### **WLPOA Staff**

Ronnie Rice, Office Manager  
Cindy Tucker, Amenities Director



### **Top of the Bald Newsletter**

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Coffee and Espresso**



Find both at 42 North Main St, Mars Hill, NC

Mon - Sat 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM ~ Sunday 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

# Wolf Laurel Homes



316 Wolf Laurel Road  
Mars Hill, NC 28754

**Jane Wallin**

Phone: 828-689-4422

Cell: 828-206-9653

www.MountainLaurelRealty.com



## 481 OVERLOOK DR

2,400' sq ft, 3br, 2 1/2 bath,  
terrific view, paved level  
drive, garage. **\$466,000**



## 820 OVERLOOK DR

3248 sq ft. 3 bedrooms 4 baths.  
Designers dream w/fabulous  
views!!! **\$659,000**



## 17 GREER WAY

1482 sq ft 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2  
baths. .59 acres Cozy log cabin  
with stream. **\$159,000**



## 328 MCKINNEY GAP

1500 sq ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2  
baths. Cozy cabin. Paved road  
and paved driveway. **\$115,000**



## 582 TRILLIUM LANE

1624 sq ft 3 bedrooms, 2 baths.  
Immaculate condition **\$275,000**



## 415 OVERLOOK DRIVE

NEW Builder spec, 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2  
baths, Terrific view, paved gentle drive  
open floor plan **\$595,000**  
**LATE SUMMER COMPLETION**



## 68 UNAKITE LANE

3518 sq. ft. 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2  
baths. Spacious home with long  
range views. **\$425,000**



## CONDO 208

1 bedroom, 1 bath with gas fire-  
place, galley kitchen, laundry,  
long-range views **\$139,500**



## CONDO 202

1 bedroom, 1 bath with gas fire-  
place, galley kitchen, laundry,  
long-range views **\$119,900**

**YOUR HOUSE  
HERE**



## 466 HANGING ROCK

2240 sq ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths.  
High elevation **\$248,000**



## 901 GOLDENLEAF

2715 SQ FT 3 bedrooms, 4 baths.  
Enjoy the mountain view from  
private gazebo! **\$475,000**



## 51 GARDENSIDE

2071 sq ft. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths.  
Great home. Oversized lot.  
**\$249,900**



## 673 CHESTNUT LANE

1900 sq/ ft/ 4 bedrooms, 2 baths.  
Cozy chalet.  
**\$159,000**



## 1262 MCKINNEY GAP

1400 sq ft. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths.  
Beautifully maintained  
roundette. **\$179,000**



## 216 HAMPTON GAP

2612 sq ft. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths.  
Great Value, Spacious living.  
**\$315,000**



## 763 GRANNY LEWIS LN

3000 sq ft. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths  
Antique log cabin. **\$295,000**



## 410 ZEBULON LANE

3074 sq ft. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths.  
High elevation home in immacu-  
late condition. **\$365,000**



## 409 UPPER HAW

3900 sq ft. 3 bedroom 3 1/2 bath.  
2.2 acres Beautiful home with  
tremendous views. **\$635,000**

**Earning your trust one house at a time.**