



Blackberry Juice

AUGUST 2018

BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION

OFFICE MANAGER

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After Hours Water and

Gate Systems Emergencies

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Galusha, President

Dave Teffeteller, Vice President

Carolyn Sewell, Treasurer

Rich Baker, Secretary

Dolly Vantrepotte, Member at Large

DESIGN COMMITTEE

Barbara Dunson

Jennifer Fontenot

Dave Teffeteller

Blackberry Mountain is an architecturally controlled community, established to protect and preserve the beauty and integrity of the environment and property values of the property owners by maintaining architectural standards and aesthetic harmony among the lots and structures that make up the community.



Property Clean-Up

The Association has arranged for Jr.'s Tree Service to pick up and mulch brush and limbs from Blackberry residents' properties. To participate in this clean-up, residents must pile their brush near the roadside but not blocking or encroaching on the roadway. Pick up and mulching will begin the last week in September. No material in the brush pile should be larger than 6" in diameter. The mulch generated from the clean up will be available to residents on a first come - first serve basis. If you have any questions about the clean-up, contact Dave Teffeteller, 706 635-2147.



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Important Note From the Board

Inserted in this newsletter you'll find a telecommunications survey. The feedback from this survey will assist in determining the interest in the installation of Ellijay Telephone Company (ETC) fiber optic, high speed internet services in Blackberry. The survey results will not be shared and you can respond anonymously.

On August 17th, several BMA residents attended the monthly board meeting to hear ETC's presentation and to ask questions regarding fiber optic service.

At this time, ETC is in the process of obtaining bids for installing fiber optic service in Blackberry. This would consist of the installation of fiber optic lines along the roadways from pedestal to pedestal (green telephone utility cabinets) and to the homes of those who want the service and agree to enter into a 3 year ETC service contract. ETC's ballpark estimate for this installation is \$250,000 -350,000. When the actual installation bids are received, ETC will submit a formal proposal to BMA for consideration. This proposal will be shared with all residents. **No decisions will be made regarding the possible installation of fiber optic without the input and vote of all residents.**

ETC's sales information detailing this service and explaining how ETC will offset the cost of installation based on the number of contracted subscribers is available at the Blackberry office. If you'd like to let ETC know that you're interested in fiber optic service, visit <https://join.etcnow.com>

Also, the ETC representatives reminded residents that are dissatisfied with the quality of their existing DSL service, to contact the ETC service department at 800-717-3710 or support@ellijay.com.

David Galusha, President

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This is a great opportunity to clean up Blackberry. If owners continually neglect the maintenance of their property, the Association has the responsibility and authority to perform the necessary maintenance at the property owners' expense.

Please remember that any tree work other than removing downed trees, branches and debris from your property requires Design Committee approval. Tree services are not permitted to perform any cutting or removal of standing trees and vegetation without this approval.

Office Renovation

The renovation of the office shared by Blackberry Mountain Association and Rivers Edge Estates is mostly completed. Yet to be installed are the flagstone walkways and landscaping. Special thanks goes to Rivers Edge resident, Ted Minick, for constructing the blue pine conference table. It's a great addition to the office.

Hemlock Treatment

Blackberry's hemlock trees have been treated for the invasive insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid. From time to time you may see some minor infestation while the treatment is taking effect. If you have any questions regarding the hemlocks or their treatment, contact Dave Teffeteller at 706 635-2147 or dave@ellijay.com.

Beavers

Due to complaints received regarding damage to trees, beavers traps were set at the Spring Lake ponds. To date two beavers have been trapped. If you observe any new beaver damage to trees, please notify the office.

Snakes

Of the 42 snake species in Georgia, only 6 are venomous, and only 2 of those are common in Gilmer County - the Timber Rattlesnake and the Copperhead.

The **Timber Rattlesnake** or canebrake is large and stout with a distinct rattle at the tip of its tail. The body of the snake is blackish to pinkish in color with dark, light-centered crossbands and



blotches. Adults have black tails. Timber rattlers are normally between 3 and 5 feet long and feed on small mammals like chipmunks, rabbits, gray squirrels, mice, weasels and moles. While its venom is of only moderate strength, the snake's sheer size allows it to put a lot of venom into a single bite, making it very dangerous. However, these snakes prefer to use their rattle to give plenty of warning when they feel threatened, and generally seek to avoid humans. This combination makes them easy to encounter, but hard to get bitten by if the snake is left alone.



The **Copperhead** is an ambush predator feeding on small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and birds and is between 20 and 36 inches long.

While the snake would prefer to leave the area rather than have an encounter with a human, they often tend to freeze instead of retreating. Also, their color pattern makes them very hard to see on beds of dried leaves and groundcover.

While bites from these snakes are extremely rare and seldom life-threatening, if you are bitten, call 911.

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Mark Your Calendar

4th Quarter Assessment Due

October 1, 2018

Annual Meeting

December 1, 2018



Windshield stickers are available at the office.

Welcome New Members

Jono and Ashley Agurto SS15

Mark and Dana Bishop SL03

Phil and Marsha Clark BF20

Bobby Wood BF36