



**FEBRUARY 2021**

**BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION**

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Linda Black

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After Hours Water and Gate Systems Emergencies  
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**WEBSITE**  
[www.BlackberryMountainAssociation.com](http://www.BlackberryMountainAssociation.com)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

David Galusha, President  
Dave Teffeteller, Vice President  
Carolyn Sewell, Secretary  
Rich Baker, Treasurer  
Dolly Vantrepotte, Member at Large

**DESIGN COMMITTEE**

Barbara Dunson  
Jennifer Fontenot  
Dave Teffeteller



# Let's Clean Up

The annual Blackberry property clean-up and chipping will begin mid-April. Workers will be removing debris from the roadways, ditches, check dams and rights of way including limbs and debris from residents' property. This is great opportunity to clean up your property and to share the cost equally through the Association membership. To make the project a success:

- Place debris to be chipped in the right-of-way along the roadsides where it is easily accessible but will not encroach onto the roadway.
- Keep limbs set out for chipping to less than eight inches in diameter. You do not need to cut longer limbs into piles of shorter limbs.
- Stack debris so that all the limbs are facing in one direction.
- Volunteer to help with chipping if you are able. While we pay a tree service to provide workers and a chipper, community volunteers can help reduce the time and work effort involved in the chipping, which results in a reduced cost to the community, as well. If you would like to volunteer, please call the office or contact Dave Teffeteller at [dave@ellijay.com](mailto:dave@ellijay.com)

- If you need assistance in moving your debris to the roadside, you might consider hiring workers from Isiah House, 706 635-3535.

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

**We're Now a Firewise® Community**

**Blackberry Mountain Association is now a recognized Firewise® Community.** The National Fire Prevention Association's Firewise USA® program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take proactive action to prevent losses. There are no costs associated with membership and it is not mandatory that every homeowner comply with implementation of the risk reduction steps you can take to make your home safer during a wildfire event.

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If you're interested in having a Firewise® assessment of your property, contact Anthony English of the Georgia Forestry Commission and request that an onsite Firewise® Risk Assessment Survey be performed on your home and property. There is no charge and you do not have to be present for the survey. Following the survey, you will receive a written report identifying any areas where attention is recommended. Anthony's phone number is (706) 754-2354.

Pamphlets are available at the Association office that provide an overview of wildfire risk reduction steps that can make your home safer during a wildfire. The major threat during a wildfire in the North Georgia mountains that is moving towards your home is airborne embers and radiant heat. Historical and empirical data confirm that taking the following simple steps will greatly increase the probability that the integrity of your home will be maintained.

- Maintain a perimeter around your home free of flammable vegetation such as fallen leaves and twigs.
- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles.
- Replace or repair loose or missing shingles.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8-inch mesh screening over the vents.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens or broken windows.
- Clean areas under patios and decks of debris and screen or box in those areas.
- Remove all flammable material away from the foundation such as mulch, flammable plants, leaves and firewood – anything that could burn.

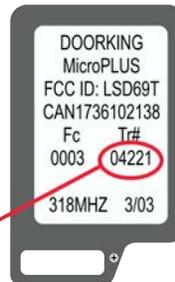
- Remove anything flammable from underneath decks and porches.
- Ensure the area around your propane tank is free of any flammable material.
- Trim branches that overhang the home, porch or deck.
- Store firewood no closer than 30 feet from the home.

For more information go to [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact Rich Baker BMA Board Treasurer at [bakerr1@aol.com](mailto:bakerr1@aol.com) or (706) 889-6989.

### Register Your Gate Clickers Now

In the continuing effort to improve security and restrict access to only authorized vehicles only, Blackberry's gate clicker registrations must be updated. Please complete the at-

**SERIAL #**



tached registration form. Provide information for each clicker in your possession. If additional forms are needed, make copies of this form or request them from the office.

**On April 1, 2021, all unregistered clickers will be deactivated.**

Please return this form by email ([blackberry@ellijay.com](mailto:blackberry@ellijay.com)) or USPS mail.

### Are You Ready For A Power Outage?

- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food     | <input type="checkbox"/> Propane     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water    | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries   |

Also, check out [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more preparedness information.

### Wells Will Be Chlorinated in April

Blackberry's community wells will receive their annual chlorination during the week of April 12th. The shock chlorine treatment is not harmful but may cause a slight taste and odor. Depending on the volume of water used, the odor should dissipate within 24 hours.

You may wish to drink bottled water and refrain from washing clothes while the odor of chlorine is present.

### 2020 Annual Meeting Recap

Thanks to all the members who attended and participated in December's annual Association meeting. Three items were presented for action:

- Election of David Galusha and Dave Tefeteller to two-year terms as members of the board of directors
- Approval of 2021 budget
- Adoption of rules including the addition of electric-assisted bicycles and scooters to the list of prohibited vehicles

There were also discussions regarding the spring clean-up and Blackberry's Fire-Wise status. Both of these are discussed in this newsletter.

## Mark Your Calendar

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| <b>2nd Quarter Assessment Due</b>       | April 1, 2021          |
| <b>Clean-Up and Roadside Chipping</b>   | Mid-April              |
| <b>Chlorination of Blackberry Wells</b> | Week of April 12, 2021 |
| <b>3rd Quarter Assessment Due</b>       | July 1, 2021           |
| <b>4th Quarter Assessment Due</b>       | October 1, 2021        |