



Blackberry Juice

MAY 2022

BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION

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After Hours Water and Gate Systems Emergencies

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We Must Conserve Our Water

While Blackberry Mountain's wells are currently producing stable supplies of clean water, there is no guarantee that this will always be the case. Keep in mind that we live on top of our drinking water and activities on the land surface can affect the quality of our groundwater.

- Use water wisely. Take short showers, run only full loads of dishes and laundry and repair leaks promptly.
- Refrain from washing cars, pressure washing, filling hot tubs, sprinkling and excessive watering of plants.
- Collect rainwater for plant watering and outdoor use using rain barrels.
- Remember water features and pools are prohibited in Blackberry Mountain.
- Get involved in water education and teach your family, friends and neighbors: **if you don't want to drink it, don't put it on or in the ground!**
- Reduce household chemical use and properly dispose of motor oil and unwanted or unused chemicals and medications.
- Select low water-use, native plants and limit the amount of pesticides and fertilizers used on your property.
- Minimize runoff. Runoff can carry chemicals into surface water and groundwater.
- If pesticides, oil, gasoline, or other hazardous products leak or spill onto your driveway or other hard surface, use kitty litter or other absorbent material on the spill. **Do not wash down the area.**



HOME DEPOT

A rain barrel can save most Blackberry residents hundreds of gallons of water each year. This water can be used for watering plants, washing cars and other projects around the house. Guidelines for installing and using water barrels are readily available from UGA Extension.

Water and Fires

The warmer and often drought-producing months of summer place tremendous stress on Blackberry's wells. Please remember that **the use of sprinklers, filling of hot tubs and excessive use of water contribute to this stress** and can result in the loss of water supply for you and your neighbors.

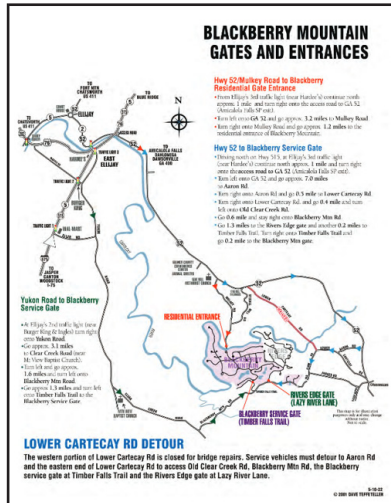
Also, please remember that **all outside burning and the use of fireworks, campfires, fire rings and fire pits are prohibited.**



Avoid Bridge Damage

In recent months, the Blackberry Mountain bridge has been struck several times by delivery vehicles. It is our responsibility as homeowners to ensure that drivers of work and delivery vehicles use the Timber Falls Trail service gate.

Do not assume that drivers know to use this gate. Many drivers rely on GPS that will route them to Mulkey Road and the office gate. Please take the time to [download the directional map](#) from the BMA website and text or email it to workers and delivery drivers.



Mark Your Calendar

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 3rd Quarter Assessment Due | July 1, 2022 |
| 4th Quarter Assessment Due | October 1, 2022 |
| Annual Meeting | December 10, 2022 |

Don't Get Towed

If you plan to park an unattended vehicle at any of Blackberry's common areas including the parking area at the office, make sure that you have a Blackberry window sticker affixed to the lower left of your windshield.



Vehicles without a sticker are subject to being towed. These stickers are available at the office.

Hornets, Wasps and Bees



There's been a lot of media attention regarding the Giant Asian "Murder" Hornet. They are not in Georgia. At this time, they have only been found in Pacific Northwest. However, there are other stinging wasps and hornets that may be encountered here.

The **Eastern Cicada Killer Wasps** are found throughout the Eastern US. They, like most hornets, wasps and bees, are active June - September. The males have no stingers, but will aggressively defend nesting areas. The females have stingers, but are not aggressive toward humans unless handled or stepped on.

Likewise, **European Hornets** are not very aggressive unless agitated. They are largely carnivorous and hunt large insects such as beetles, wasps, large moths, dragonflies. They also feed on fruits and other sugary substances. Hornets' nest can be found throughout Blackberry Mountain.

Even less aggressive are the **Carpenter Bees**. The males have no stingers. The females are capable of stinging, but they are docile and rarely sting unless caught in the hand or otherwise directly provoked. Carpenter Bees tunnel into wood and

can be destructive to wood structures. Many folks in Blackberry use Carpenter Bee Traps to reduce their damage.

Bumblees, like honey bees, feed on nectar. Female Bumblebees can sting repeatedly, but generally ignore humans and other animals. Bumblebees are important in the pollination of plants.

Paper Wasps are probably the most docile of these insects, but can be quite aggressive when agitated. Paper wasps feed on nectar and other insects, including caterpillars, flies, and beetle larvae. Because they are known pollinators and feed on known garden pests, paper wasps are considered to be beneficial by gardeners.

Yellowjackets are quite common here. They build concealed nests, usually underground. They can be quite aggressive. As pollinators, they are important to the life-cycle of our plants and trees.

Most people only have minor reactions to the stings of wasps and hornets. People who have large local reactions may be allergic to the stings and should seek medical attention.