



Blackberry Juice

**NOVEMBER
2010**

**BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN
ASSOCIATION**

MANAGER
Becki Bray

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After Hours Water and Gate Systems
Emergencies
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WEBSITE
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
David Galusha, President
Dave Teffeteller, Vice President
Carolyn Sewell, Treasurer
Norman Essner, Secretary
Barbara Ellis

DESIGN COMMITTEE
Barbara Dunson
Barbara Ellis
Norman Essner
Maxine Morris
Dave Teffeteller



Winter Is Upon Us - Are You Ready?

After an incredibly beautiful autumn, Blackberry Mountain has already had a taste of winter with low night-time temperatures and a dusting of snow. Last year's winter caught some of us off-guard, so we need to make sure we're prepared for what this year might bring.



Fuel and Heat

Now is the time to check your propane tank fuel level. Don't rely on your fuel company to routinely check your tank. During the winter months it's a good practice to keep your fuel tank no less than 25% full.

It is not uncommon for portions of Gilmer County to be without electrical service for extended periods of time due to fallen trees brought on by heavy snow and ice. Remember your furnace must have an electrical source to operate. Do you have an alternative heat source for your home? If you have a furnace, make sure that it is functioning properly and the chimney is clean. If you plan on relying on your furnace, be sure you have a good supply of dry, seasoned firewood, kindling and fire starters. If you have a generator, make certain that it is functioning properly and you have a sufficient amount of fuel for several days of continuous operation.

Water

Blackberry's wells are equipped with electrical pumps. When the power is off, the pumps are off, and water will not be available to your home. Make sure you have potable water for drinking and cooking. Many of us gather gray water in rain barrels to use for watering summer plants. That same water can also be used for flushing toilets.

Getting Out and About

If you're concerned about getting out of your home due to ice or snow, make sure you have an accessible supply of ice melt to apply to your porch, sidewalk and driveway.

If you think you will need to drive on Blackberry and county roads, ensure that you have a properly equipped vehicle. Four-wheel drive, snow tires, and, for extreme conditions, tire chains may be necessary. If inclement weather is in the forecast, and you have pressing appointments or health concerns, consider making arrangements for accommodations nearer the major roads.

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Are You Ready? continued from front page

If you have a vehicle suited for ice and snow, and you would like to be available to help your Blackberry neighbors in their transportation needs, contact Becki Bray and your name and phone number will be added to the list of volunteers. Also, the association has a limited supply of ice melt for application on some of our steeper roadways. If you would like to volunteer to be available for applying the ice melt, contact Becki.

Life in the mountains has many rewards, but also requires that we plan for the challenges and inconveniences it presents as well. Be prepared and enjoy the winter!

New Board Members

At last year's annual meeting, Board Treasurer Bill Henning agreed to remain on the board until the adoption of the restated bylaws. Following the adoption of the restated bylaws (available on the website), **Norman Essner** agreed to serve. Following the death of Board President Jack Wheeler, **Barbara Ellis** has agreed to complete his term.

Board officers are David Galusha, president; Dave Teffeteller, vice president; Carolyn Sewell, treasurer and Norman Essner, secretary.

Remember to Winterize

Remember to winterize your home especially if you plan to be away for an extended time.

1. Protect outside spigots and pipes with insulated covers.
2. Set thermostat at 50 degrees or above.
3. Make sure heating system is in working condition.
4. Open cabinet doors where water pipes are located.
5. (Optional) Shut off water to house and drain lines.

Design Committee

Please remember that approval of the Blackberry Design Committee is necessary for any exterior alterations, site changes or tree removal. Applications are available at the office, in your property owners' manual and on the association website.

Committee Member Needed

If you have an interest in learning about being a volunteer member of the Blackberry Design Committee, please contact Norman Essner at 706 645-3758 or essnern@etcmail.com

Visitors and Guests

If you are expecting weekend guests or visitors to your home remember that Blackberry's **gate attendants are not on duty from November through March**. Remind your guests to use the keypads located at the office and service gates, or meet them at one of the entrances.

Also, please remember that the office gate and bridge are not for use by service, repair and construction vehicles. They must use the service gate. Maps and directions to that gate are available in your property owners' manual, at the office and on the Blackberry website.

Mark Your Calendar

Blackberry Annual Meeting

March 26, 2011

Gilmer Arts & Heritage Assoc. Bldg.
207 Dalton Street, Ellijay

Group Purchasing

Several POAs in our area have found it to be economically advantageous to use their group buying power in purchasing certain services. If you would like to participate in group purchasing of propane and property clean-up services, please notify Becki Bray.

Common Area Maintenance

NOTICE

Spring Lake Drive Repaving

Spring Lake Drive is scheduled for repaving the week of November 30th. This project may take a couple of days, and the use of the roadway may be interrupted from time to time. A sign will be posted at the intersection of Spring Lake Drive and Blackberry Mountain Drive notifying drivers of the repaving.

Ponds

Service of the ponds has continued throughout the summer and fall. Recently lime was added as needed to balance the pH of some of the ponds. Also, with the normal winter, lower water levels, repairs will be made where needed.

Speed Breaks

In an effort to reduce speeding and reckless driving, speed breaks have been installed on Blackberry Falls Drive and Blackberry Mountain Drive.

Hemlock Wooly Adelgid

A few isolated infestations of the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid have been found in Blackberry. A plan for treating Blackberry's hemlocks will be presented at the annual meeting. If you are currently having your hemlocks treated, please contact Dave Teffeteller at 706 635-2147 or dave@ellijay.com so he can add your information to Blackberry's HWA treatment database.