

SADDLE RIDGE



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The Ridge Rambler

Spring 2011

Musings

from the *Assistant* Editor
by Roxanne Clapp



The first signs of spring.



Spring has sprung! How terrific is that?!

My last trip up Saddle Ridge was on March 23rd. Spring was budding all around. My favorite are the redbuds, and they were just about to pop in Saddle Ridge that day. You could see the faint lavender hue of the buds. I bet if I could have stayed just one more day I would have seen them in all their glory. I enjoy coming back each time to see what has changed. Each season is its own masterpiece.

As you may have surmised, we don't live in Saddle Ridge yet. We have been property owners for over a year now and we visit often. We drive up from Florida sometimes even just for a day. We find it is worth it when you're looking forward to *living* in Saddle Ridge and to get a few deep breaths of that mountain air!

I know there are many "Ridgers" out there like us – those who live elsewhere but are in Saddle Ridge in their hearts. This newsletter helps keep us connected when we can't be there.

It would be great to hear from all of you, to hear *your* story of Saddle Ridge, how you found it, why you love it, and to see your pictures! 🐾

Upcoming dates to remember:

May 6 & 7, 2011
19th Annual Spring Festival & Old Timers Day in Townsend

May 13 - 15, 2011
Trout Fest
www.troutfest.org

June 3 & 4, 2011
Smoky Mountain Pottery Festival

July 16, 2011
Annual SRPOA Meeting

September 23 -24
19th Annual Heritage Festival and Old Timers Day in Townsend & Cades Cove

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What if a Bear Comes to Your House?

– Melba Harmon



The bears have come out of their dens.

We have a few bear sightings in Saddle Ridge every year. Jim and I are volunteering for the Appalachian Bear Rescue and provide programs to schools and organizations on their behalf.

Below is some helpful information to keep the bears from visiting your house.

The best thing to do is to make sure you have no food or food odors that may attract a bear. This includes pet food, bird seed, garbage, and a greasy barbecue grill.

A bear that can't get to food will likely move on to some other location. Bears do not naturally seek food from humans. However, some

bears have learned to identify certain houses where they can obtain food. Bears are very smart. They are also very strong. A determined bear looking for food can get through a screen door or even a glass door in no time at all. When a bear enters your yard, if it is not habituated, loud noises should cause it to leave. If it does not leave, it is probably used to obtaining food from humans. You should then call the wildlife officers (in Tennessee call the TWRA) to obtain further help. TWRA's general number is 1-800-332-0900.



Feeding bears will create nuisance bears that have to be removed. Once they have tasted human food they will not stop. Removing nuisance bears and relocating them is not usually successful resulting in the death of the bear. A hummingbird feeder is equivalent to a can of soda to a bear. 🐾

Sidebar on Elk

Continued from previous issue.

(Editor's note: Most of this information was provided by Beth Dicus, a former resident of Saddle Ridge and one of the elks' major caregivers.

We pick up here at Thanksgiving while a docile Bo, after a morning of terrorizing the neighborhood, follows Dr. Fletcher as he walks down Chilhowee Loop)



Oftentimes Bo had to be tranquilized in order to ease his return to the pen. Then Townsend Police Officer Ron Suttles (then the lone officer for that town) would be called to assist. Suttles carried and could operate a dart gun.

Bo seemed to know that. Whenever Suttles appeared Bo would head straight for him, harm plainly in his manner. Toward the last of Bo's sojourn at Saddle Ridge, Suttles was forced to hide in surrounding foliage to get a shot at the elk in rut.

There was concern, of course, about having to tranquilize Bo, the same

concern we often see expressed by animal experts on Animal Planet and National Geographic shows.

Something had to be done.

An area near Sweetwater specialized in unusual animals. The owner was interested in developing an elk herd. Elk are prized in the Orient, especially China and Japan, for their antlers. Ground antlers which are supposed to provide amazing restorative powers. Since elk lose their antlers every year, they are a renewable resource.

This Sweetwater resident was
(continued on page 4)

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Finding Saddle Ridge

by Roxanne Clapp



My husband, Larry, and I decided to go to the Smoky Mountain National Park for a vacation in 2004. We were very taken with the fresh air, the views and hiking through the mountains. We found the "Quiet Side of the Smokies" during that trip.

We soon found ourselves vacationing here every chance we could get time away from work. Dreaming of vacations soon turned to dreaming of living here. The dreams starting sounding more like planning and then we officially declared it, out loud to each other, that this was where we wanted to live later in life. Actually, if all the pieces fell in to their place at that moment I think we would have packed up our belongings and hit the road the day we had that conversation. But.... much planning was in our future.

We found Saddle Ridge on the internet. Knowing the area much more than we did, at first, our realtor didn't think we would want to be so far out of the way. Much to his surprise, we fell in love with the neighborhood on our first visit – even though we got a little lost on the roads in the neighborhood that day.

We have been told by some of our suburb dwelling neighbors that we are crazy for wanting to build so far out of the way. Call us crazy or call us hooked – we start building this month! And, although I may not appreciate it at the moment it happens, I'm looking forward to one day saying the phrase "Oh sorry I can't be there, I can't get off the mountain today". ☺

Ahhhh.... Spring!



The Beautification Committee does it again! Thank you!

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Critter Corner - Sidebar on Elk, cont.



interested in purchasing Saddle Ridge's entire herd. Oliver, Bo and the two females were herded into a small area, the perimeter was secured by lots of fencing. Suttles came with his tranquilizer gun and Bo literally hit the dirt, hopefully for the last time.

But there was a mix-up. The person who was supposed to transport the animals to Sweetwater had not gotten the correct message about when to arrive to load the animals.

Bo lay inert on the ground, and his "friends" in Saddle Ridge became concerned (after themselves having watched those television shows). They covered Bo with blankets, they brought bales of hay, unbound them and scattered the hay over Bo in an attempt to keep him warm.

He was finally carted off with his son and his harem to Sweetwater.

Beth and several other Saddle Ridge residents wanted to keep in contact with Bo and Oliver, even with the female who had passed her "squirrely" personality on to Junior. But the Sweetwater resident discouraged such continued contact, fearing it would re-enforce Bo's and Oliver's tendencies to be more pet-like.

Several years ago, Beth was able to contact the new owner to inquire about Saddle Ridge's former residents.

Oliver, he told her, was doing just great. He was now the main breeding male in his herd which was now showing a profit from the ground antler sales.

He too had fallen in love with Bo before the elk had succumbed to pneumonia – which is just what the Saddle Ridge caregivers had feared when they used the blankets and hay.

"He's right here in the room with me," he told Beth. He had Bo stuffed and his head mounted on his wall.



Firewise Tip

Spring is here! Each spring clean leaf and needle fall that accumulates in foundation plantings, next to buildings and under decks. Take special care to clean out dead leaves from arborvitae next to buildings. Better yet, replace those arborvitae with leafy plants. Contact Tim Williams or any Board member if you have questions about making your home "Firewise".

GOOD NEIGHBOR

Saddle Ridge is a wonderful place to live. We enjoy the beautiful foothills landscape, especially now that the spring flowers are blooming. We enjoy the peacefulness of the wind in the trees and the songs of myriad birds. Many live in such privacy that they cannot see a neighbor's home. As a number of our good neighbors showed during this difficult winter, someone is always there to lend a hand. We are free to do most things just as we wish, unencumbered by the standards of a city or town.

Being free to do what we wish does not come without responsibility. Being a good neighbor means that we respect each other's privacy and ensure each other's safety. Many of our residents are avid dog lovers. Our rural setting makes Saddle Ridge an ideal place for having healthy and happy dogs. Many find great joy in their dogs, and they feel more secure having them to protect their homes and property. Everyone would agree that is a good thing. It is when dogs become a nuisance, such as excessive barking or unwanted visits to someone else's home, or even a danger to other residents, such as chasing cars or wildlife on our roadways, that a good neighbor policy should apply.

A good neighbor policy is very simple. We all take responsibility for our own actions, and those of our pets. If a dog barks excessively, the owner should take measures to curtail the barking. This may include housing the dog indoors or in a kennel when the owner is away from home. If a dog wanders away from the owner's property to visit elsewhere, or chases cars or wildlife, the owner should take measures to confine the dog to their property. This may involve as little as supervising the dog when it is outside, training the dog, or even the use of electronic collars on the market that effectively contain a dog within a certain area.

With all of us adhering to a good neighbor policy of respect and tolerance of each others' right to enjoy our freedom and privacy, we will continue to make Saddle Ridge the best place to live.

Thank you all for being good neighbors 🐾

Editors Note: Recent complaints about dogs - wandering, barking, acting, well, like dogs - prompted this contribution from one of our homeowners, Scott Schehr. We print this as a reminder.



Future Stories

Help keep your neighbors informed about things that are happening in your neck of the woods. If you have a story or photo to share please send it in and if we have room it will appear in a future issue of the *Ridge Rambler*.

E-mail to Rox@rox-c.com, or mail to:
Roxanne Clapp, 26504 Whirlaway Terrace, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

The Snow Shut Down

by Judy Pearson, SRPOA Secretary

Thank You's & Transportation Help

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow --NO MORE! What a winter!

Although we, the Pearsons, loved cross country skiing out our front door, road committee members who



Photo by Bob Hood

were stymied first by snow, then by ice and even later by thick mud have said ENOUGH ALREADY!

At the recent Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association board meeting, road committee chairman Bob Hood praised home owners and their patience. Although a couple of folks expressed concern, no one – throughout the frozen, then melting and muddy conditions – complained. “The road crew extends appreciation and a thank you to all for your understanding,” Bob says.

Another major “thank you” is due to those who transported people to and from the gate during the ice and snow coated roads. Some folks even ran errands for those who couldn't get out.

Bob also expressed concern for anyone who might have a medical emergency when our road conditions might be unsafe. As a response to this concern,

the board has compiled a list of folks who can move through Saddle Ridge when such conditions exist.

Each listed person has 4 wheel drive vehicles, chains for those vehicles and a willingness to transport one of us to the gate to meet emergency personnel or, if emergency personnel cannot reach Saddle Ridge, transport us to the hospital.

Our suggestion: Post this list by your phone or on your refrigerator for use if such an emergency arises:

Tim Williams	982-5290
Hugh Pearson	982-5729
Scott Schehr	983-1871
Joel Loy	983-5197

Thanks in advance to these volunteers for their help! 🐾

People on the Move!

Welcome new SR residents and future residents and their families:

James & Sandra Burnette

Apologies to anyone we missed. If you are one of those people, drop us a line and let us know.

EAST MILLERS COVE CLEAN UP

Come out and help in the effort!

Date

Time

Etc.

CONTACTS

Board Members

Nancy Cain, President	984-7250
Bob Spista, Vice President	984-0502
Bill Harriman, Treasurer	681-3437
Judy Pearson, Secretary	982-5729
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Jim Tedford	670-1304
Alex Wyss	977-1533
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Pink Lady Slipper

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Firewise Committee		
Tim & Sarah Williams	982-5290	timsbabe1@msn.com
Road Committee		
Bob Hood	681-7623	winterhawk6210@yahoo.com

Resident Services

The Rambler lists those services that are offered by Saddle Ridge homeowners. Please submit a brief description of services that you have to offer such as electrical, handyman, etc. to Melba Harmon at melba.harmon@gmail.com, or to Roxanne Clapp at rox@rox-c.com. Notices are subject to space limitations. There is no charge to Saddle Ridge property/homeowners.

ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, HEATING & A/C WORK • Licensed and Insured Darin Suggs, 804-6449

GENERAL ELECTRICAL WORK Bob Hood, 681-7632

HANDYMAN & REMODELING WORK Chris Sledge, 406-8502

BARN EVENT CENTER OF THE SMOKIES

A full service event center for parties, business meetings, weddings, etc. off site catering is offered as well. Contact Richard or Debbie Way at 448-9378 or www.barneventcenterofthesmokies.com