



Volume 21 • Issue 2

The Ridge Rambler

WINTER 2013-2014

Headline

by Roxanne Clapp

Text

Happy Thanksgiving!



Upcoming Dates to Remember:

December 2
Townsend
Christmas
Parade

July 2014
Annual
Meeting

President's Message

by Scott Schehr

Fall greetings to all of our residents and property owners. What a brief, but spectacular, fall color season. Most of the leaves are off already and winter is coming. We are blessed with such distinct seasons here, each with it's own unique beauties.

We enjoyed having a large turnout for our SRPOA Annual Meeting in July. As always, the Hospitality Committee outdid themselves in providing a delicious breakfast. The Board election went quietly, with Nancy Cain, Debra James and I re-elected for second three-year terms. The Board appreciated the high level of participation by those present, both through those who provided information and those who had questions for the Board. Our association is only made stronger when its members are active and concerned.

Our community is constantly growing and changing. It is always a joy to have new neighbors. Sometimes we have folks leave Saddle Ridge for various reasons. Recently, we had someone very near and dear to the Board leave us, Bill and Pam Harriman. Bill was serving in his sixth year on the Board, with four and a half years as our Treasurer. I have often said that the Treasurer is the most important officer of the Board. Being the Treasurer requires much work, often thankless. Bill served that role in an exemplary manner. I will personally miss his keen insight and dedication to keeping the SRPOA budget on an even keel. Even



The SRPOA Annual Meeting held on July 19, 2013. Board members from left to right: Darin Suggs, Bob Spista, Scott Schehr, Bill Harriman, Ann Tedford, Lynn Hopps, Hugh Pearson, and Debra James. (Not pictured: Nancy Cain.)

more, all of the Board members will miss his friendship, wise counsel and dry wit. We wish he and Pam all the best in the future as they return to the Pacific Northwest to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

In this edition of the *Ridge Rambler*, you will see an article about two meetings of the Tuckaleechee Garden Club that were held in Saddle Ridge at our barn area. Members of the club and the residents of Saddle Ridge who participated found both of these events very worthwhile. The Board wants all of our property owners to know that the barn area is available for the use and enjoyment of our property owners. The annual Fall Cookout had more than forty people in attendance and was a great success. We hope to begin researching



Tom makes road repairs on Walnut Flats Road.

and planning for improving our common areas for the recreational use of the Association. More information is to come on this, but please talk to any Board member about your ideas for the common areas.

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The Fall Cookout held on October 12th at the barn area. Residents gathered around the campfire for an evening of camaraderie and food.

Road Projects in Saddle Ridge

- By Scott Schehr

Burchfield Construction road crews have been making repairs and improvements on several roads within Saddle Ridge during the summer and fall.

Repairs and improvements were made in the following areas:

- Chilhowee Loop Road from the barn to Bear Paw Road
- Walnut Flats Road north and south of Bear Paw Road
- Walnut Flats Road and Grouse Top Road intersection
- Sky Top Road
- Elks Point Road

The Saddle Ridge Properties Owners Association thanks Ann Sullivan for allowing the road crew to use a large amount of shale and fill from her land in order to complete these projects. Her generosity saved the SRPOA a great deal of money in material and trucking costs.

Additional repairs and improvement projects are planned for next spring in the following areas:

- Elks Point Road and Eagle Pass Road north to Oakwood Road
- Oakwood Road on the large hill above Chilhowee Loop Road
- The dam at the lower lake, with the two drain tiles closest to the gate being closed off and the remaining four drain tiles put into use. This will allow for the lake level to be raised up to a foot.



Fill being spread on Walnut Flats Road at the intersection with Grouse Top Road.



Shale fill was used from Ann Sullivan's land fronting Chilhowee Loop Road for repair of several roads.

During the remainder of November, crews will be blowing leaves from the roadsides, grading, making minor repairs and applying gravel throughout Saddle Ridge. Regular grading with the road boss grader will take place throughout the winter.

Many thanks to all of our residents and property owners for their patience and cooperation to keep the worksites safe as the repairs and improvements took place. We apologize for any inconvenience.



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President's Message

Also in this edition of the *Ridge Rambler* is an article about recently completed road projects and the plan for the future. While it is impossible to prepare for all contingencies, we have developed a plan to prioritize future repair/improvement projects and scheduled road maintenance. The guiding principle of our planning is to give priority to the projects that provide the greatest benefit to the most residents and property owners. With that said, we hope to be able to provide good service to all property owners and residents, whether on the main artery roads or in the more remote areas. We will be continuing with improvement projects in the spring.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Scott Schehr – SRPOA President

Seed Ball and Hypertufa Workshops Held at Saddle Ridge

- By Theresa Schehr

The Tuckaleechee Garden Club of Townsend hosted two workshops at Saddle Ridge barn area during September and October. One of the workshops was making seed balls from a mixture of clay, compost and seeds, and the other workshop was making hypertufas, which is the process of forming a cement mixture into or around a mold to create a garden planter. Several Saddle Ridge residents are members of the Tuckaleechee Garden Club, which include Martha Frink, Loraine Smith, Connie Evans, Scott and Theresa Schehr. The Tuckaleechee Garden Club took this opportunity to reach out in their community for a time for educating, learning, and having fun.

The wildflower seed ball workshop was held on September 17th. Along with the workshop, everyone enjoyed a luncheon of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and various potluck dishes and desserts. A group of Saddle Ridge residents joined the workshop and rolled up their sleeves and got their hands dirty to mix and roll seed balls.



Martha Frink (left), Loraine Smith, and Dave Glarner are busy rolling seed balls.



Anna Janda (left), Anna's sister, Barbara Jewel, Annette Carroll, and Vivian Tipps roll...and roll...and roll...and roll seed balls!

Seed Balls

Seed ball formula:

- 5 parts red-terracotta clay (Can be found online and at some art stores.)
- 3 parts sifted compost (Compost can be purchased or use yard compost. Sift through a metal strainer/colander.)
- 1 part seed (Wildflower seeds are common or use herb seeds.)
- 1-2 parts water (Add in small increments.)

To make 30-40 seed balls, use ¼-cup parts. Add water slowly to avoid making the mixture too wet. Roll into a 1/2 to 3/4 inch (nickel-size) balls.

Set the seed balls out to dry for 7-10 days. Store in paper bags. Do not store in plastic bags/containers, since any moisture in the bag will cause the seed balls to sprout prematurely.

Toss the seed ball on the ground where you want wildflowers to grow. When it rains the seed ball will decompose and soon you'll have budding plants without ever having to dig or plant.

Note: If making herb seed balls, mix clay and compost first, then divide dry mixture according to the different herbs. Add herb seed and then water to each group. Form each type of herb into a different shape to identify them.

The seed ball, or seed bomb, is a mixture of clay, compost and seed formed into a ball. The clay holds the seed compact and the compost supplies the nutrients as the rain decomposes the seed ball. The practice of making seed balls dates back to the American Indians as they used this propagation method to plant their crops. Seed balls were an excellent technique of keeping their valuable seeds safe during transport, as well as safe from blowing away or being eaten by birds or animals when planted. Some of the more common uses of the seed ball today are to throw them over fences or along road sides to propagate wildflower seeds in barren and abandoned city lots or to re-establish wildflowers in fields and roadsides, thus giving it the name "seed bomb." The practice of randomly tossing these
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seed bombs in areas you technically do not have the right to plant is known as “guerilla gardening.” Guerilla gardening is becoming a popular activity of Boy and Girl Scout groups or that rebel gardener who wants to beautify their neighborhood.

The hypertufa workshop was held on October 15th and, again, all enjoyed a luncheon of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and delicious salads and desserts. Saddle Ridge residents once more had to get their hands dirty as they shaped and formed the cement mixture into their molds. A variety of molds and embellishments were added to the hypertufas to make each planter unique.

The hypertufas are made from a mixture of Portland cement, peat moss, and perlite. The peat moss and perlite make the hypertufa lighter and over time moss grows on the planter to give it an “aged” look. The hypertufas take some time to fully cure; but once ready, they make a beautiful addition to any garden, patio, or yard.



Vivian Tipps (left) and Barbara Jewel work on their hypertufas.



Anna Janda (left), Martha Frink, and Betsy Smith mix, shape, and form their hypertufas.

The recipes and instructions for seed balls and hypertufas are given in this article. Seed balls make great gifts for gardeners. One gift idea is to use herb seeds, forming different shapes according to the herb seed, and then package them in a candy box or netting bags like they are bon-bons or truffles. Hypertufas make excellent gifts as well. Succulent plants and herbs do well in hypertufas. It is always enjoyable to give, or receive, a handmade item such as a hypertufa or seed ball gift box. Keep these special gift ideas in mind for Christmas – since it is just around the corner.



Hypertufa

Hypertufa formula:

- 1 gallon Portland cement (Must be Portland cement so it cures slowly.)
- 1.5 gallons perlite
- 1.5 gallons peat moss (Sift through ½-inch hardware mesh/screen)
- ½ - 1 gallon water

Use rubber gloves and dust mask when mixing the materials. Mix the perlite and peat moss together first, and then add cement. Add water a little at a time until it resembles dry cottage cheese. A few drops of water should ooze between fingers as you firmly squeeze a handful.

Select a mold that is wider on the top than on the bottom and should not be larger than 16 inches in diameter/square. Prepare the mold by generously spraying with cooking spray, or spread a layer of thin plastic, onto the surface that you will mold (inside or outside of mold). While wearing rubber gloves, pat enough of the mixture to form a 1½ inch thick wall and bottom. Poke drainage holes if it will be a planter.

Cover the hypertufa with plastic and set it in the shade or indoors for at least 24-48 hrs. Once the hypertufa is hardened, remove it from the mold. Cover again with plastic for 2 weeks, wetting the planter down at least every other day. A slow cure time will make the planter stronger.

Once the hypertufa has cured, set it out in the sun for drying. Frequently hose off the hypertufa, or set it out in the rain, for at least 7-10 days. This will rinse out the lime from the cement, which can cause problems for some plants. Plant your favorite succulent or herb plant. Place in your yard or garden, and enjoy!

Watch for these wildflowers come this spring...

Witches Hobble (Viburnums) that bloom in late April to early May. The big white flowers surrounding the cluster of little ones are sterile, and only serve to attract insects to the smaller ones in the middle. This plant derives its name from the 6-12 foot-long branches that will drop down and take root in the ground. These then often trip — or hobble — people walking by the bush.



The Sweetshrub (Calycanthus floridus), also known as Carolina Allspice or Bubby Bush, blooms in mid-spring into early summer. The maroon flowers of this shrub have a “vinegary” odor, but the leaves, wood, and bark have a pleasant, spicy smell. The name “Bubby Bush” comes from the practice of the mountain women putting crushed leaves in their dress tops to make themselves smell nice! Don’t confuse the Carolina Allspice shrub with the allspice plant, used to flavor foods. The shrubs’ berries are poisonous in large quantities.



Thank you to Dave Glarner for providing these photos of the wildflowers he has photographed in Saddle Ridge and the surrounding area. 🍁

Welcome!

new Saddle Ridge residents and future residents and their families!

Welcome New Home Owners:

*Kirsten Eapen – 2122 Dove Ridge Lane
Cliff & Carla McCartney - 1940 Fox Trail Rd.*

Welcome New Property Owners:

Ed and Amy Rivers – 2019 Waters End

*Drop us a line and let us know how you found
Saddle Ridge and why you chose to live here.
Send your story to Roxanne Clapp, Co-Editor.*

Rox@rox-c.com



Thank you to the Beautification Committee

*for keeping the
entrance decorated
for the seasons.
Love the scarecrow
family at the kiosk!
(also seen on front cover
insert)*





Scenes of Saddle Ridge

Pictured above: SR Barn at Sunrise; Left: Pretty bird (what kind is this? Email Rox@rox-c.com; bears in the yard (I was inside taking pictures through the window, shaking like a leaf! This was my first live up-close encounter with a bear. And I got two at once!) Photos supplied by Roxanne Clapp.



Saddle Ridge Fall Clean Up

by Theresa Schehr

The Fall East Miller's Cove Clean Up was held on November 2, 2013. It was a beautiful day for a clean up as twenty Saddle Ridge volunteers hiked along East Miller's Cove Road to gather trash from the roadsides and crawled up and down the sides of the road to clean trash from the slopes and streams. Seven miles of roads were covered, from Walland Elementary School to the Sevierville county line. Over all, sixteen bags of trash, two tires, a mound of aluminum siding, and an old glass panel door were collected. The volunteers did a great job and had a lot of fun, too!



Photo from Left to Right: Frank Aldridge, Debra James, Tim Evans, Bob Spista, Connie Evans, Martha Frink, Judy Pearson, Liz Domingue, Theresa Schehr, Lorraine Smith, and Bob Frink.

Many thanks to the volunteers:

Martha & Bob Frink

Jim & Barbara Clinansmith

Annette & Bob Carroll

Debra James & Frank Aldridge

Jim & Melba Harmon

Liz Domingue & Lorraine Smith

Tim & Connie Evans

Scott & Theresa Schehr

Judy Pearson

Betsy Smith

Bob Spista

Dave Glarner

(My apologies if I missed anyone).



Photo Left: Martha Frink hands out section assignments to Frank Aldridge and Dave Glarner.

SADDLE RIDGE RESIDENT-ONLY FACEBOOK PAGE

Share news with your neighbors. Ask questions, get answers! Keep in touch.

To get signed up, contact Bob Hood,
Page Administrator
winterhawk6210@yahoo.com



SADDLE RIDGE GATE PROCEDURES

These procedures describe the operation of the Saddle Ridge entry gate system.

The gate system consists of a keypad system (housed in a stone pedestal on the left at the gate), a motor driven system to open and close the gate, a battery back-up system to allow the gate to function during power failures and a series of sensors (loops) buried in the ground to detect vehicles.

There are three ways to open the gate:

1. A person wishing entry may use the keypad to enter a four (4) digit code, **preceded by the # sign**. The code must be previously programmed into the system. (Example: #1234)
2. You may use a garage door opener (available at Sears, Home Depot, Lowes, etc.) programmed to work with the gate system. As the person desiring entry approaches the gate, he/she depresses the key on the opener while aiming the opener toward the right gatepost. (To obtain brand of opener and program settings, refer to the contact information below.)
3. At the keypad pedestal there is a screen that will display the residents of Saddle Ridge. Scroll to the person you wish to visit and depress the send button. That person will be called on the telephone. When they answer, the person desiring entry talks to them in a normal voice speaking toward the speaker/microphone located on the face of the display. If the resident called wishes to grant the caller entry, the resident depresses the number 9 key on their touch tone phone. The phone will hang up and the gate will open.

! CAUTION !

To avoid damage to your vehicle, DO NOT try to beat the gate. Be patient and let the gate do its normal cycle.

The sensors buried in the roadway prevent the gate from closing while a vehicle is passing through the gate opening. To exit Saddle Ridge, stop your vehicle at the figure of a bird perched on the split rail fence to the right of the road at the gate as you depart. This is the indicator of where the exit sensor is located.

In the event of a power failure, the gate will continue to function normally for (50) cycles. After (50) cycles or so, it will open and remain open until the power is restored. Once the power is restored, the gate will return to normal operation.

Property owners may request their own personal gate code. This code is for the use of the property owner, family members, close friends, etc. This code should not be given to vendor's contractors, realtors, etc. There are monthly codes designed for those purposes. Monthly codes are generally created quarterly and expire at approximately midnight on the last day of the month of which they are assigned. The monthly gate codes are distributed to property owners with the annual SRPOA invoice of maintenance fees. To obtain the current gate code or assign your own personal gate code, refer to the contact information below. (NOTE: The personal (4) digit gate code is also **preceded by the # sign**.)

Residents have their names and phone numbers programmed into the system so that they may be called from the entry pedestal. Only names are displayed, phone numbers and entry codes do not display at the keypad.

In the event of a gate malfunction, an alarm will sound and the gate will open about half way and stop. Wait a minute or so and re-enter your personal code or call the party you wish to visit and ask them to activate the gate again from their phone. The gate should recycle and resume normal operation.

For any problems with the gate operation, questions, or concerns, please contact Bob Frink at 865-984-4873.

- Bob Frink

Saddle Ridge Fall Cookout

- By Theresa Schehr

The Saddle Ridge Fall Cookout was held on October 12th at the barn area. Saddle Ridge residents and property owners, old and new, gathered around the campfire for an evening of camaraderie, food, and fun. It was a time to catch-up or to meet new neighbors.

Judy Pearson initiated a "Name Game" so residents could introduce themselves. Later in the evening, brave volunteers participated in a skit, narrated by Judy that had the crowd laughing. Who knew we had



Residents enjoy the evening campfire.



Time to roast some hotdogs!

such talented actors (and good sports) among us.

Hotdogs and marshmallows were roasted on the campfire. Additionally, everyone enjoyed the variety of tempting potluck dishes and desserts that were delicious and plentiful. No one left hungry.

Thank you to all who donated materials and cash to support Walland Elementary School. Donating to the school is a great way for Saddle Ridge to support our community. Walland Elementary is very grateful for all we do and offer.

Thanks to the Welcome and Hospitality Committee for their work and dedication for making this an enjoyable evening. 🍁



Residents took part in the "Name Game." Participants formed a circle and tossed stuffed animals or balls between each other as they introduced themselves and each other.



Judy Pearson dresses Wren Wyss as a cat for the skit.

Owls - Raptors of the Night

By Theresa Schehr

The night is filled with sounds of nature: Tree frogs peeping, whippoorwills calling, and the all-familiar hoot of an owl. The owl is the raptor of the night. Most of their hunting is done at night as they rely on their keen sense of hearing, instead of sight, to catch their prey. They are considered nocturnal but will often hunt during the day when food requirements are difficult to meet or while raising their young. Most owls mate for life, taking a new mate only if theirs dies. There are four types of owls found throughout Eastern Tennessee; the Great Horned Owl, the Barred Owl, the Barn Owl, and the Eastern Screech Owl.

The Great-Horned Owl is the largest of the nighttime raptors. It can be identified by “horns”, which are neither ears nor horns, simply tufts of feathers. They use their tufts to convey body language. When they are irritated, the tufts lie flat and when curious, they stand upright. They have a reddish, brown or gray face and a white patch on the throat. The iris of their eye is yellow. The under parts are light with brown barring; the upper parts are mottled brown. They prefer to roost in evergreen

trees and usually nest in abandoned Red-Tailed Hawk's nests 40-70 feet

off the ground. Their call is a low-pitched, but loud, ho-ho-hoo hoo hoo. They have a wide array of diet of mammals: rabbits, rodents, squirrel, skunks, raccoons, woodchucks, and bats. They also prey on birds, and they will eat other owls too. They are very strong hunters, as they apply 500 pounds of pressure per square inch with their feet (talons).



Above Photo: The Great-Horned Owl identified by its “ear” tufts and yellow eyes.



A juvenile Great-Horned Owl in a defensive pose.

The second largest nighttime raptor is the Barred Owl. A round head with no “ear” tufts and long tail feathers may identify it. The Barred Owl has both vertical and horizontal brown and white streaks or “bars” for coloring. Their beaks are yellow, and they have large dark brown (appear black) eyes with no contrast

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Notice the Great-Horned Owl's impressive wingspan.

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between pupil and iris. Barred Owls prefer to live in mature forests and heavily wooded swamp areas. They also do not make their own nests but will use abandoned Red-Shouldered Hawk nests, crow nests, tree hollows and nesting boxes. Their call is a Hoo-hoo-to-hoo-oo, which sounds like it is saying "Who cooks for you?" They also have a call sounding of hoo-hoo and wha-aaa (sounding like a monkey). The Barred Owls are probably the most vocal of all owls. Their prey ranges from insects to woodchucks, geese, and herons. They are opportunistic hunters and



Successful release of a Barred Owl after rehabilitation.



Above Photo: Note the vertical and horizontal "bars," yellow beak, and brown eyes of the Barred Owl.

often eat lizards, frogs, rodents, birds, fish, and crayfish, and have been known to eat worms.

The Common Barn Owl can be found nearly worldwide. The Barn Owl nests in abandoned buildings and "barns." Their large heads have a facial disk that is distinctly heart-shaped

can easily identify them. They have two color phases: white and orange, with the white phase being more common. When in flight, they swift from side-to-side rather than in a straight line. Barn Owls do not hoot; they hiss, shriek, shrill screech, beak snap and scream. With their white plumage and their vocal screams, they have been a part of history in ghost stories. Barn Owls are the only owls in the U.S. to breed several times a year, but it does depend on the food supply and weather. They are solitary hunters and are incredibly efficient. They have been observed catching 60 mice per hour! Their diet is mostly rodents.

The smallest, and the cutest, of the nighttime raptors of Eastern Tennessee is the Eastern Screech Owl. As the name states, they are found in the Eastern U.S. up to southern Canada and Texas and the Dakotas. They look like baby Great-Horned Owls - they have yellow eyes and "ear" tufts. They are found in three phases: red, grey and brown, with red and grey being the most common. They do not stick to



Baby Barn Owls with the distinctive heart-shaped facial disk being formed.

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“like-colored” owls when selecting their mates, and they mate for life. They nest in tree cavities and openings in buildings, and been known to nest in bird boxes. Their vocal calls vary greatly. They have specific mating and territorial calls, a whiny whistle and a bounding trill. They will make a loud screech or wail when attacked or feel threatened. They hunt using the sit and wait method, flying short distances to catch their prey (6 – 10 ft). They will hunt anything from birds, insects, reptiles, small mammals, and fish.

So these are the nighttime raptors that you can find in your backyard. Listen for their call, and watch very carefully as they silently glide through the night air.

What to do if you find an injured or abandoned raptor...

What would you do if you found an injured or abandoned raptor? Scott and I encountered this situation last July when a juvenile hawk, unable to fly, was found in our son’s yard on Walden’s Creek Road. We researched the Internet and located Upstate Birds of Prey, in Tallassee, from the TWRA website (www.tn.gov). Little did we know that the phone call that day to Upstate would change our lives.

Once we arrived at Upstate Birds of Prey, we were greeted by Natalie and Tim Mong. Natalie and Tim are the owners and operators of Upstate and have been in operation for only one year. Natalie invited us into the raptor hospital to observe the examination of the juvenile hawk. We were amazed at the care and kindness that Natalie gave during the examination. The wings, eyes, ears, beak, throat, and keel were checked.

The diagnoses: The juvenile Red-Shouldered Hawk was severely dehydrated and emaciated. It would require fluids and feeding in order for the hawk to regain its strength.

After the examination, Natalie and Tim spent time with us explaining their non-profit organization and their facilities, which include a raptor hospital, three mews, and a flight pen. Natalie received her training and raptor rehabilitator certification from the Carolina Raptor Center in Huntersville, NC. She explained that Upstate is very new and are looking for volunteers. With our love for nature and great interest in raptors, we decided to join Upstate Birds of Prey in their quest to rescue and preserve birds of prey through education, rehabilitation, and returning these majestic birds back into the wild. So we started our

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The Red-Phase Eastern Screech Owl is perched on the upper branch. The Grey-Phase is on the lower.



The small Screech Owls are great at blending into the background of their surroundings.

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Natalie checks the wings of a juvenile Red-Shouldered Hawk for broken bones. Note that another handler always holds the talons and a towel is placed over the head of the raptor. Covering the head calms the bird so the examination can take place.

training and learning of how to be a raptor handler on that day.

First, what is a raptor? A raptor is carnivorous, they have talons for hunting, and they have a hooked beak for tearing apart their prey. Owls, hawks, falcons, eagles, and vultures are common raptors in Eastern Tennessee. So, if you find one of these majestic birds you think is injured or orphaned, what do you do?

Before you do anything:

Ensure the bird needs to be rescued. In many cases, it may be normal behavior to be on the ground. Well-meaning people have collected a bird of prey thinking it is injured or orphaned, without realizing that the parents are watching. Wait to see if the parents return with food. If it is a young raptor, it may be learning to fly. Often, the parents encourage the fledglings to find hidden spots away from the nest, reducing the chance of being taken by a predator.

You may find a raptor that has flown into a window, been caught by a cat, tangled in fencing, or hit by a car (number one cause of injury to raptors). Call Upstate Birds of Prey at 865-680-9623 to discuss and evaluate the situation so the best course of action can be taken. If you will be gathering the bird and/or transporting the bird to the rehab facility, locate a box or pet carrier to transport or hold the bird. Prepare a box with ventilation holes and place a towel or newspapers on the bottom of the box or pet carrier (not a metal cage). Approach the bird carefully. Handling an injured raptor can be very dangerous, not only to the bird but to the rescuer. Keep yourself safe by using heavy gloves and a blanket or sheet. If possible, approach the bird from the rear. Carefully and quickly place the blanket over the entire bird. You should attempt to avoid the feet by grabbing the bird firmly from behind on the sides of the body and holding its wings close to the bird's body. Pick the bird up and place it carefully in the prepared box/carrier. Carefully remove the covering and quickly close the



A Red-Phase Eastern Screech Owl shows signs of head trauma. Note the owl's left pupil is larger than its right.

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box top. Do not handle or look at the bird any more than is necessary, as it is highly stressful to the bird. Place a blanket over the box/carrier and set the box in a quiet place away from extreme temperatures. Do not attempt to force the bird to eat or drink. If you are transporting the bird to Upstate Birds of Prey, speak quietly and do not play your car radio. Do not place the box on a person's lap. NEVER transport a raptor that is not in a box or otherwise restrained. Once received by Upstate Birds of Prey, the raptor will receive the treatment necessary for recovery to be released again into its natural habitat.

The best way we humans can prevent these birds of prey from being injured is DO NOT LITTER! As mentioned earlier, being hit by a vehicle is the number one cause of injury to raptors. Trash along roadsides attracts rodents and insects – the prey these raptors hunt. Please dispose of trash properly.

If you would like to visit, or have Upstate Birds of Prey present an educational program on birds of prey, please



I hold Wilson, Upstate's Screech Owl educational bird, before his checkup. Wilson cannot be returned to the wild since he cannot grow proper tail feathers; thus, he does not fly correctly. Wilson will now help educate the public on birds of prey. Wilson is still in the process of becoming an educational bird. It can be a slow and challenging process before a raptor will trust you.

Gloves are worn and the talons are always secured. This avoids injury to the handler, and more importantly, the bird does not talon himself or herself.

Upstate has a pair of baby Barn Owls at this time. These owls are about 7 weeks old and their pinfeathers are unsheathing. These babies are noisy and mean, which is good since they are not being habituated to humans and they will be released back into the wild. They are amazing birds, but at this age, they have a face that only a mother could love.

Photos are provided with permission from Upstate Birds of Prey of Tallassee, TN, and Dr. Ellen Rudolph.



Tim Mong works with Scott (left) on hand feeding Roscoe, Upstate's Great-Horned Owl educational bird. Roscoe cannot be returned to the wild due to an injured wing. Roscoe will now help educate the public on birds of prey. Since Roscoe is an educational bird, feeding is done by hand. This process allows Roscoe to gain the trust of the handler.

Roscoe is currently being "glove trained." A stroll outside on the glove acclimates Roscoe to different environments so he will become comfortable and trust the handler.

contact them at 865-680-9623 or go to their website <http://www.upstatebirdsofprey.org/>. Upstate Birds of Prey is a growing and expanding raptor rehabilitation hospital and educational program that always needs donations, monetary and/or supplies. If you would like to donate, please go to their website to find out how you can support this great organization.



Send in your photos and stories of critter sightings in Saddle Ridge to appear in a future issue! Rox@rox-c.com

CONTACTS

Board Members

Scott Schehr, President	865-983-1871	scottschehr@yahoo.com
Bob Spista, Vice President	865-984-6290	spistars@hughes.net
Bill Harriman, Treasurer	865-681-3437	billharriman72@gmail.com
Lynn Hopps, Secretary	865-984-7729	lthopps@gmail.com
Hugh Pearson	865-982-5729	hspearson@att.net
Ann Tedford, Recorder	865-980-1757	anntedford@bellsouth.net
Debra James	865-982-8723	debra@debrajames.com
Nancy Cain	865-984-7250	nbradcain@gmail.com
Darin Suggs	865-804-6449	darin.suggs@me.com

Committee Chairs

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE		
Chairperson: Bill Harriman	865-681-3437	bharriman72@gmail.com
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE		
Chairperson: Debra James	865-982-8723	debra@debrajames.com
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE		
Roxanne Clapp, Layout & Design	865-982-8308	rox@rox-c.com
Theresa Schehr, Content Manager	865-983-1871	teschehr@gmail.com
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE		
Chairperson: Lynn Hopps	865-984-7729	lthopps@gmail.com
WELCOME & HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE		
Chairperson: Ann Tedford	865-980-1757	anntedford@bellsouth.net
ROAD COMMITTEE		
Chairperson: Darin Suggs	865-804-6449	darin.suggs@me.com

Resident Services

The *Ridge Rambler* lists those services that are offered by Saddle Ridge homeowners. Please submit a brief description of services you have to offer; such as electrical, handyman, etc., 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, 865-804-6449

HEMLOCK HEALTH & TREE HEALTH SERVICES
Curtis Casciano, 865-789-7642

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 865-448-9378 or www.barneventcenterofthesmokies.com