



Volume 22 • Issue 1

# The Ridge Rambler

SPRING 2014



*Out For a Walk*

*Ken LaValley 20*

Photo by Ken LaValley



Photo by Theresa Schehr



Photo by Theresa Schehr

Winter  
has turned to  
Spring...



Photo by Theresa Schehr



Photo by Cliff McCartney

# President's Message

by Scott Schehr

Spring greetings to all of our residents and property owners. With the way this winter has gone, hopefully it truly is spring. With unprecedented cold weather, I know we all can use a break from those high heating bills. And, while beautiful, we all probably have seen enough snow for a few years.



Many residents and property owners enjoyed our first annual "Lighting of the Barn" in December. There is more about

that event in this edition of the *Rambler*.

As I had mentioned in the previous edition, 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. During our Spring Cleanup, we will be continuing to clean and repair the barn, a process we began with the preparations for the "Lighting of the Barn," and continued with repairs and enhancements to the stalls, tack room and fencing done by the Tedfords to prepare to house our newest resident, Murphy the horse. We are beginning research and planning for improving our common areas for the recreational use of the Association members. Over the next several years, we hope to have facilities in place to make the barn area attractive for both SRPOA and individual property owner functions. We welcome all of your creative ideas and energy to make the best use of this property.



The SRPOA annual meeting will be held at the Walland United Methodist Church, 309 East Millers Cove Road, on Saturday, July 19, 2014, with breakfast starting at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting at 10 a.m. There are two Board members with their first three-year term expiring: Darin Suggs and Lynn Hopps. They have agreed to stand for re-election for a second term. There is one vacant position available for nomination as well. Any SRPOA member(s) in good standing may nominate themselves or other eligible members (with their consent) interested in serving on the SRPOA Board of Directors. Nominations may be made in advance by sending a notice to any Board member, so the candidate can be placed on the ballot and any biographical information may be provided to our members prior to the election. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the meeting. The members of the Board strongly encourage and welcome all nominations.

Active and willing volunteers to serve on the Board, as well as those joining the various committees that serve our membership, enhance the strength and effectiveness of our Association. We encourage all to participate. It is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors, develop relationships and provide service to your community.

Thank you for all of your support. Look forward to seeing you in July!



*Spring is in the air – Daffodils and Forsythia bloom by the lake.*

Scott Schehr – SRPOA President

# Meet Murphy...

By Jim Tedford

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the SRPOA Board and our awesome neighbors for welcoming Murphy Tedford to his new retirement home at the Saddle Ridge barn! Murphy has been a big part of our family for the past 15 years and moved back to Tennessee with us 10 years ago. Murphy was adopted from the Humane Society at Lollypop Farm in Rochester, N.Y. while I served as President/CEO. He is a registered Appendix Quarterhorse (meaning he's got Thoroughbred in his breeding). Murphy, whose official name is Go Go Fiesta, was born on May 3, 1990 in Indiana. He was raced until he was nearly five and won quite a bit of money in his day. After somehow making his way to upstate NY he was retrained for three-day eventing (cross-country, dressage and stadium jumping). His owner was an elderly woman who decided to downsize her horse population. She surrendered Murphy to the Humane Society at the age of 9. Back then, he had tons of energy and needed a confident rider. Frankly, I think his former owner was a little intimidated by him. But, for me, it was love at first sight and my very patient wife agreed to the adoption! When we first got him, he had been so "over-programmed" by all those years of training that he was emotionally shut down. He had



Murphy  
Photo by Theresa Schehr

forgotten how to just be a horse. He wouldn't take a treat and was just sort of robot-like. It didn't take him long to learn to appreciate his new stress-free life and he would canter across his paddock to get his peppermint candy! Over the years, Murphy and I have traveled hundreds of miles on the trails of N.Y. and East Tennessee. A few years ago he developed some hoof issues that are easily managed with proper hoof care. But, I decided it was in his best interest to let him retire. He's put in a lot of years and deserves a happy life in his senior years. He will live out his days in his

paddock in Saddle Ridge munching grass and hay, getting daily grooming and getting to know his new neighbors! I have spent a lot of hours working on the barn and the paddock and still have some work to do. The barn suffered from years of neglect before it came into the SRPOA's ownership so I've been cleaning and repairing and will continue to do so. It is my hope that Murphy's arrival and the repairs/clean-up we've done so far will lead to that property becoming a sort of "community center" that can be enjoyed by all property owners. It's a beautiful, peaceful piece of property and we should all be proud to share it.



Photo by Theresa Schehr



## Watch for these wildflowers this April and May...

Gaywings (*Polygala paucifolia*), or Flowering Wintergreen, are a treat to find in the woods in late April. They are tiny, around three inches tall, with beautiful pink flowers.



*Photo by Dave Glarner*

Hearts-a-Bustin (*Euonymus americanus*), or Strawberry Bush, blooms in May-June with white, purplish, green flowers. It's so named for the plant's unique four-lobed seed capsules, which open in September-October to reveal a fiery-red collection of dangling seeds from its interior.

*Spring...*



*Photo by Dave Glarner*

*Fall...*

Thank you to Dave Glarner for providing the photos of the blooming wildflowers that he photographed in Saddle Ridge and the surrounding area. 🌸

## Changing of the Guard for Saddle Ridge Gate Operation

Bob Frink and Bob Spista have turned over the responsibility of the operation and programming of the gate to Hugh Pearson and Bob Hood. Much appreciation to them for their years of dedication in keeping the gate operational and handling all resident requests and inquiries. Please note the new contact information for all gate related inquires (i.e. personal code setup, gate malfunctions, contractor gate codes, etc.).

Hugh Pearson  
Tel: 865-982-5729  
Email: [hspearson@att.net](mailto:hspearson@att.net)

- or -

Bob Hood  
Tel: 865-310-6246  
Email: [winterhawk6210@yahoo.com](mailto:winterhawk6210@yahoo.com)

## 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](mailto:winterhawk6210@yahoo.com)



# Ladies Cabin Fever Potluck

by Theresa Schehr

It was a day of crazy weather, sun shining with snow blowing, but the ladies of Saddle Ridge braved the weather to attend this year's Ladies Cabin Fever Potluck. It was held on Tuesday, March 25, at the home of Barbara Clinansmith. The tables were decorated with a cheerful spring theme of flowers and colorful windmills that were later raffled off as door prizes. Janet Kolarik initiated a fun and creative "ice-breaker" game to introduce new and reacquaint old residents. A variety of tasty dishes and delicious desserts were enjoyed and savored by all.



From left: Vivian Tipps, Lynn Hopps, Debbie Way, Debra James, Barbara Jewel, Janet Kolarik, Melba Harmon, Mary Glarner, Ann Tedford, Sue Foster, Carla McCartney, Julie Ellison, Theresa Schehr, Alane Wyss, and Barbara Clinansmith.

A sincere thank you to Barbara Clinansmith for opening up her home and making it possible for this highly anticipated Saddle Ridge tradition to continue. 🌸

## Upcoming Dates to Remember:

**April 11-12:**  
**SMOKY MOUNTAIN  
FIBER ARTS FESTIVAL**

Great Smoky Mountains  
Heritage Center, Townsend  
[www.smokymountainfiberartsfestival.org](http://www.smokymountainfiberartsfestival.org)

**April 12:**  
**BLOUNT COUNTY  
RECYCLES DAY**  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Maryville First Baptist Church  
202 W. Lamar Alexander Pkwy.  
Maryville

Visit [www.keepblountbeautiful.org](http://www.keepblountbeautiful.org) for items  
being accepted and more information.

**April 15-19:**  
**GREAT SMOKY EASTER  
ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW**  
Gatlinburg Convention Center

**April 15-19:**  
**64th ANNUAL SPRING  
WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE**

Great Smoky Mountains  
National Park  
[www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org/](http://www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org/)

**April 26:**  
**BLOUNT COUNTY MASTER  
GARDENERS PLANT SALE**  
Midland Shopping Center, Alcoa

**May 2-3:**  
**TOWNSEND SPRING FESTIVAL  
AND OLD TIMERS DAY**  
Townsend Visitors Center

**May 10-11:**  
**BLOOMS DAY**  
UT Gardens  
Joe Johnson Dr, Knoxville

**June 1-15 (Est):**  
**SYNCHRONOUS FIREFLIES**

Elkmont (Great Smoky  
Mountain National Park).  
Advance registration is required for  
the shuttle service from the  
Sugarland Visitors Center to the  
viewing area in Elkmont.

(Visit <http://www.recreation.gov/tourParkDetail.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=72413>  
for purchasing a parking pass.)

**July 19:**  
**SRPOA ANNUAL MEETING**  
Walland United Methodist Church  
309 East Millers Cove Road  
9:30 a.m. Breakfast • 10 a.m. Meeting

# The First Saddle Ridge “Lighting of the Barn”

By Debra James,  
Beautification Committee

Volunteers showed up early on the cold morning of Saturday, December 3, to trim the barn and kiosk with lights. Larry Elder generously provided the idea and detailed plans, as well decorations and abundant amount of Christmas lights, to make Saddle Ridge a little more festive for the 2013 Christmas season. Theresa Schehr made a large evergreen wreath that was hung on the barn. Animated deer and lighted trees added the final touches to our winter scene.



Photo by Ken LaValley

Ken LaValley 2013



Photo by Theresa Schehr

Festive Christmas decorations on the gate.



Photo by Theresa Schehr

Debra James (on ladder), Martha Frink, and Bob Frink work on hanging lights on the kiosk.

Refreshments were served later that evening when residents gathered for the first “Lighting of the Barn.” We had so many favorable comments about the decorations; we hope this will be an annual event.



Photo by Theresa Schehr

Volunteers stop to have a break with hot cocoa and refreshments. Photo (from left): Mary Glarner, Kate Burnette, The Elf (Judy Pearson), Hugh Pearson, Debra James, and Martha Frink.

# More pictures from “Lighting of the Barn”



Photo by Theresa Schehr

Volunteers Harry (Wyss) and Izzy (Schehr) are all play and no work!



Photo by Theresa Schehr

Izzy (Schehr) begs, “Can I be a reindeer? I’m the right color.”



Photo by Theresa Schehr

Work complete at the barn! Photo (from left): Theresa Schehr, Bob Frink, Martha Frink, Mary Glarner, Debra James, Dave Glarner, Kate Burnette, and Larry Elder.



Photo by Theresa Schehr

Volunteers at work, hanging lights and moving mulch. Photo (from left): Nancy Cain (adding mulch to the winter scene), Mary Glarner, Dave Glarner (on ladder), Larry Elder and Bob Frink.

## A big THANK YOU to all our volunteers:

For the decorating of the barn and kiosk:

Larry Elder  
Dave and Mary Glarner  
Bob and Martha Frink  
Hugh and Judy Pearson  
Scott and Theresa Schehr  
Kate Burnette  
Nancy Cain  
and  
Debra James

To Jim and Barbara Clinansmith for the newly repainted JOY nativity sign at the lake, a 12 year Saddle Ridge tradition.

To Hugh Pearson for installing the electrical work at the kiosk.

To the Beautification Committee volunteers for decorating the gate.

To the Hospitality Committee for hot beverages and refreshments at the Lighting of the Barn.

And to the volunteers who supplied the hot beverages and refreshments for the morning decorating crew.



## The Synchronous Firefly *By Theresa Schehr*



Synchronous fireflies (*Photinus carolinus*) are one of at least 19 species of fireflies that live in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Synchronous fireflies are uncommon in North America and are the only species in America whose individuals can synchronize their flashing light patterns. In recent years, the residents of Saddle Ridge have witnessed these rare jewels here near the barn.

### The Lives of Fireflies

Fireflies (also called lightning bugs) are beetles. They take from one to two years to mature from larvae, but will live as adults for only about 21 days. While in the larval stage, the insects feed on snails and smaller insects. Once they transform into their adult form, they do not eat.

Their light patterns are part of their mating display. Each species of firefly has a characteristic flash pattern that helps its male and female individuals recognize each other. Most species produce a greenish-yellow light; one species has a bluish light (the Blue Ghost (*Phausis reticulata*)). The males fly and flash and the usually stationary females respond with a flash.

### Bioluminescence

The production of light by living organisms is called bioluminescence. Fireflies are a good example of an organism that bioluminesces, but there are others as well, such as certain species of fungus, fish, shrimp, jellyfish, plankton, glowworms, gnats, snails, and springtails.

Bioluminescence involves highly efficient chemical reactions that result in the release of particles of light with little or no emission of heat. Fireflies combine the chemical luciferin and oxygen with the enzyme luciferase in their lanterns (part of their abdomens) to make light. The light produced is referred to as a "cold" light, with nearly 100% of the energy given off as light. In contrast, the energy produced by an incandescent light bulb is approximately 10% light and 90% heat.

No one is sure why the fireflies flash synchronously. Competition between males may be one reason: they all want to be the first to flash. Or perhaps if the males all flash together they have a better chance of being noticed, and the females can make better comparisons. They may flash in waves across hillsides, and at other times will flash randomly. Synchrony occurs in short bursts that end with abrupt periods of darkness.



*Synchronous fireflies produce light in their lanterns, the pale area of the abdomen visible on the underside of the insect above. Average body length of 12.5 mm.*

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When to view.....The mating season lasts for approximately two weeks each year, anytime from the third week of May to the third week in June. The dates that the fireflies begin to display varies from year to year. Scientists haven't figured out why, but it depends at least in part on temperature and soil moisture. It's impossible to predict in advance exactly when the insects will begin flashing each year.



As the season begins, a few insects start flashing, then more join the display as the days pass. They reach a "peak" when the greatest number of insects are displaying. After peak, the numbers gradually decline each day until the mating season is over.

During the two-week long mating season, the quality of individual nightly displays can be affected by environmental factors. On misty, drippy evenings following rainfall, the insects may not readily display. Cool temperatures, below 50° Fahrenheit, will also shut down the display for the night. Moon phase has been observed to affect the timing of nightly displays. On nights with a bright moon, the insects may begin flashing a bit later than usual.

Where to view.....The Elkmont Campground area in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has been the only public area where you can easily watch the Synchronous Fireflies "light show." A firefly shuttle between Sugarlands Visitor Center and Elkmont is available for people to view the light show in the park. In recent years, residents at Saddle Ridge have witnessed the "light show" here at the barn area, but on a smaller scale. So take a moment to check out the barn area during late-May to mid-June to see if you can witness this rare and spectacular light show right here in our backyard.

How to view.....Flashlights disrupt the fireflies and impair people's night vision. The light show is best when you:

- Cover your flashlight with red or blue cellophane.
- Use your flashlight only when walking to your viewing spot.
- Point your flashlight at the ground.
- Turn off your flashlight when you find your viewing spot.

You can also help protect the fireflies and their habitat:

- Do not catch the fireflies.
- Stay on the trail at all times.
- Pack out all of your garbage when leaving.

*Information about the 2014 dates of the firefly shuttle between Sugarlands Visitor Center and Elkmont will be released on April 28th. The reservation system will open on April 30th.*

*Visit the websites  
<http://www.nps.gov/grsm/naturescience/fireflies.htm>  
or  
<http://www.recreation.gov/tourParkDetail.do?contractCode=NRSO&parkId=72413>  
for purchasing a parking pass to Sugarlands Visitor Center to ride the trolley to the Elkmont Campground.*

# CONTACTS

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Vacant

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### 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](http://www.barneventcenterofthesmokies.com)