


The Ridge Rambler

SRPOA Annual Meeting



The Saddle Ridge Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, July 25, 2018, at the Walland United Methodist Church. Board President, Steve Foster, recognized outgoing board members Ann Tedford and Hugh Pearson, who were both completing six years of service on the SRPOA board. Two new members, Judy Pearson and Connie Evans, were elected for the positions vacated by Ann and Hugh. Sue DuBois was re-elected for a second 3-year term.

Steve commended the numerous community volunteers, thanking Saddle Ridge property owners who tirelessly give of their time to provide assistance. The efforts of our volunteers (removing fallen trees blocking the roads, picking up trash, repairing the barn, to name but a few of their tasks) enhance the community and make this a better place in which to live. He also recognized Betsy Smith for all the work she has done to make our community Firewise.

Following the annual meeting, all board members met briefly to elect officers for 2018-2019. Steve Foster continues to serve as President. Janet Kolarik was elected Vice President. Judy Pearson is now Secretary and Smitty continues on as Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report

Annual Assessment Reminder: Invoices for FY 2019 (July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019) assessments were mailed July 1, 2018. 153 invoices were mailed this year. The due date for payment was July 31. Members who have not paid by now are past due; members who have not paid by September 30 are delinquent.

As of August 31, we have received full or partial payments from 122 property owners, or 79.7% of our membership. Additionally, we have received \$56,750 in current year assessments (which represents 84.1% of budgeted revenues for the year) and \$6,100 in prior year assessments.

The Board provides financial updates via email to all members four times a year, including the annual report that is distributed at the Annual Meeting. These updates are designed to keep members better informed about the financial position of our Association. If you have any questions or aren't receiving these updates, please contact the Board at this address: saddleridgepoa@gmail.com.

Firewise Day / Fall Cleanup

October 13 – 9 am -- Clean up / Firewise Day

The Fall Clean Up / Firewise Day is set for Saturday, October 13 starting at 9 am. We will gather at the gate for assignments. Among the assignments are cleaning East Millers Cover Road, cleaning the barn area, conducting home inspections, cleaning flower beds, and more. We have a backpack blower and trimmers purchased with Firewise funds that you can borrow. If you need help with blowing leaves and other debris from your house, let us know.

Update on Firewise Time and Expense Investment

Thank you to everyone who has reported their Firewise activities. So far this year Saddle Ridge residents have invested over \$22,000 and 300 hours as volunteers to earn our grant money—and this does not include our Fall clean up activities, the upcoming installation of road signs, and individual Fall activities around the house.

The monthly survey gives you the opportunity to report the time and money you spend on Firewise activities [[link to survey](#)]. The Firewise information sheet *Time and Expense Investment Examples* [[link to sheet](#)] gives a partial list of activities to report.

Road Signs

The wooden road signs in Saddle Ridge will be replaced with metal road signs in the next few weeks. If you would like us to save a wooden road sign, please email [Betsy Smith](mailto:Betsy.Smith) and identify the road sign you want. We will do our best to save it for you.

Black Turpentine Beetle

Area forester Eric Miller and Mike Cook looked at a few of the dead pines in Saddle Ridge. The Black Turpentine Beetle is killing the trees, not the Southern Pine Beetle. The Turpentine Beetle is a common

pest, and not as devastating as the Southern Pine Beetle. [Forest Service information](#)



Summer Saddle Ridge Wildlife

Our Summer with “Coppo” the Copperhead Snake

by Roxanne and Larry Clapp



Minding its own business one sunny afternoon, this copperhead snake was spotted curled up on our steps leading from our driveway to the front door. We tried to persuade “Coppo” to move on about its way but it decided THIS was the best spot. We approached, it retreated into the crevices of the steps. We tried our snake deterrent vibration gizmos, pounding on the ground near enough but far enough away, turning the hose on it, playing VERY loud music with lots of bass (sorry neighbors if you heard that racket) and a little prayer. Nothing seemed to make Coppo think it needed to move away. At night it retreated

in to the safety of the crevices of the railroad ties. During the day it basked in the sun on the step and occasionally along the edge of the wall.

After 3 weeks of this see-saw action (and not using our steps), we came to realize that we aren’t the only ones that love our place :) We decided to call in reinforcements and found Paul, at All Creatures Wildlife. He came out the next day and, within about a



minute, he uneventfully retrieved Coppo from its sleepy slumber on our sunny step and placed it in a bucket for relocation. He told us Coppo was a juvenile, so it had not yet given birth to any others, but that we should be on guard for a more mature copperhead. Great.

Living in Saddle Ridge, we understand we live among these creatures. They are fine if they keep to themselves. Great rodent control :) - but be mindful - they can hide in plain sight. It is hard to tell how long Coppo was hanging out on our steps before we noticed. And even after we knew, sometimes it was hard to see it. Stepping on a copperhead or otherwise disturbing them could cause them to strike. While not usually lethal, their bites are extremely painful and have been known to land people in the hospital. Their venom is poisonous and requires immediate medical attention. Usually the copperhead prefers just as much to stay away from us as we do from them. Most bites are received when trying to capture or kill the snake.

We learned we have created quite a snake haven with our railroad tie steps. There are many places for snakes and other creatures to hide in, and they love decaying wood, as do the salamanders, which the snakes think are quite tasty. So... keep the bugs away, which keeps the salamanders away, which keeps the rodents away, and that will help keep the snakes away!

Always an adventure living in the woods.

Does anyone know of a good concrete artist that can make (attractive) steps to replace our railroad ties?



Blackberry Mountain Update



View of Saddle Ridge from Blackberry Mountain

Several members of Saddle Ridge POA attended the July Blount County Commissioners Agenda Committee meeting to weigh in on a Blackberry Mountain rezoning request. Blackberry Farms had submitted a proposal to rezone all their Blackberry Mountain land holdings from Rural 2 & 1 to Planned Rural Resort District (PRRD). PRRD allows a variety of commercial activities such as resorts, restaurants, hotels, spas, recreational facilities and others. After more than 2 hours of hearing public comments, the Commissioners voted to send the proposal back to the county planning board (see *The Daily Times*, "Blackberry withdraws rezoning request," July 14, 2018). Several POA members subsequently met with Matt Smith, Director of Development for Blackberry Mountain, to discuss how we are mutually impacted. At last word, the company plans to resubmit a revised request for rezoning.

Upcoming Events

Saddle Ridge Fall Picnic

Sunday, September 30, 2018
5PM at the SR Barn

Fall Cleanup and Firewise Day

Saturday, October 13, 2018
9-noon - meet at the gate

Welcome to Saddle Ridge

New property owners: Richardsons Cove Baptist Church

SR Facebook Group

The Saddle Ridge members [Facebook group page](#) continues to be a great source for information within our community. We regularly post messages, alerts, concerns, and needs to this page. Living in this rural community, we don't often see each other, especially during the winter months, so the Facebook page is a way to communicate timely news such as power outages, fire alerts, wildlife sightings, events coming up, lost pets, or even suspicious traffic.

Contact Sue DuBois sodubois@gmail.com, to be added to the group. Please remember, this page is strictly for people who own property in Saddle Ridge.

Contact your SRPOA Board:

Email: saddleridgepoa@gmail.com

Board members and committee chairs are listed below and also on the [Saddle Ridge website](#) - www.saddleridgepoa.com

President: Steve Foster - 859-494-7299

Vice President: Janet Kolarik - 865-805-0348

Treasurer: Smitty (G. Robert Smith, Jr.) - 615-631-5836

Secretary: Judy Pearson - 865-982-5729

Board Members:

Alane Wyss - 865-977-1533

Connie Evans - 865-304-2267

Sue DuBois - 865-307-2532

Tom Braun - 225-281-3889

Ken LaValley - 865-970-6410

Get Involved

Join one of our Saddle Ridge POA committees and contribute to the community. There are five standing committees: Architecture, Communications, Environment, Events/Hospitality, and Road.

Check out the [Charter](#) for each of the five SRPOA standing committees or contact the Committee Chair:

Architecture - Ken LaValley

Road - Tom Braun

Communications - Sue DuBois

Environment - Alane Wyss

Events/Hospitality - Connie Evans



Editor

Sue DuBois

sodubois@gmail.com

Layout & Design

Roxanne Clapp

roxanneclapp@gmail.com

Send information and photos for future Ridge Ramblers to sodubois@gmail.com



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