


2020 Spring Ridge Rambler • Saddle Ridge Property Owner's
Association Newsletter • Volume 26, Issue 4

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The
Ridge Rambler



President's Message

I have always loved living in Saddle Ridge, but I've appreciated it more than ever these past few months. Sheltering in place is a lot easier when the place is so beautiful! Now that the weather is getting nice enough to be outside, it's getting even easier. Like most of you, we have friends living all over the country, and when we think about how staying at home is for them, we realize even more how incredibly fortunate we are. Our daughter Annie lived in New York City for seven years, and we still have many friends there. Those

them. We indeed have much to be grateful for.

Another reason to be thankful is for neighbors who offer to pick up supplies for others when they go out, and for neighbors who don't hesitate to pick up the phone and call for help when they need it. We know from experience — when a tree falls, people with chain saws are there to move it, and when you run out of sugar, there's always a neighbor ready to bring you a cupful. Now, while we're trying to stay at home as much as possible, it's great to know that there is always someone willing to help when it's needed.

Have you been on a Zoom meeting yet? They're the new thing! Our last couple of board meetings have been on Zoom — it works great and because there are nine of us, the computer screen looks like Hollywood Squares, or The Brady Bunch, whichever was your favorite. Of course, we're hoping for the time to return when we can meet at someone's home like usual, but this is a great alternative until then. Michael and I have started having Zoom calls with friends in other states, and in many cases, we're talking to them more now than we did before, so that is definitely a silver lining. The Zoom app is free for calls up to 40 minutes. If you haven't already, give it a try!

Many of us are out walking on the roads, either alone, with neighbors at a safe distance, or with our dogs. Please remember to watch your speed on our roads! Our posted speed limit is 20 miles/hour. I'll be the first to admit that I have to pay attention to keep my speed there — if I get too interested in my audible book or podcast, I'll catch my speedometer inching upward. But as long as I'm paying attention, it's easy to stay there and be safe. Join me in being more mindful of our speeds for everyone's safety!

As you know, our annual meeting is usually held on the third Saturday in July. This year it would be July 18th. I think we all look forward to seeing so many of our neighbors all together, to hearing committee reports, and definitely to that delicious brunch that we share! The board is planning for the meeting as if it will happen then, but at this point, we can't be sure what the CDC guidelines will recommend. We will keep you posted as the time gets near.

So until things get "back to normal", whatever that may be, please take care of yourself. Stay home, wash your hands, wear a mask when you can't social distance, and stay safe!

Janet

Ladies Potluck 2020

The Annual Ladies Potluck was held on February 27th, 2020 at Betty Hudgens's home. It was a great time of fellowship and delicious food! We met several women who are new to our community. It was really enjoyable to hear from everyone about their backgrounds and what brought them to Saddle Ridge. Thanks to all who attended! A special thank you to Connie Evans and the hospitality committee for making this event a wonderful success.



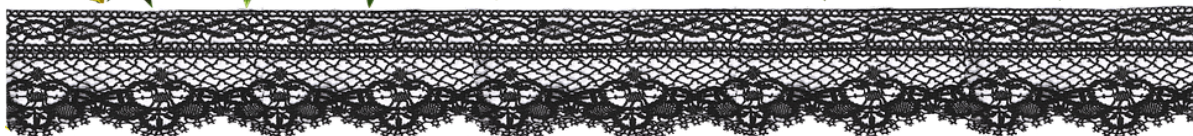
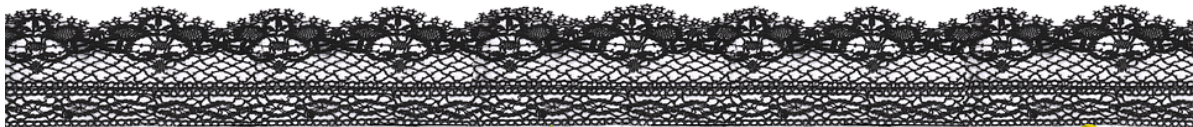
Saddle Ridge has tools and equipment you can borrow to help with Spring clean-up on your property:

- Blade brush trimmer
- Cord weed whacker
- Pole saw
- Backpack blower
- Pruners
- Lopers
- Come-a-long
- Trash Pickers
- Safety Equipment:
- Ear protection
- Eye protection
- Gloves
- Safety vests

Contact Keith Kennedy (kkcajun@gmail.com) to schedule a time to meet at the barn to check out the tools and equipment.

Saddle Ridge also has a chipper that will handle up to 4" logs. The chipper requires a team of volunteers—and the property owner must participate in the cleanup.

The tools were purchased with Firewise funds.



I would like to thank the army of volunteers (past and present members) that have picked up trash, cleared trees and debris from the road, cleaned the trash house, weeded Saddle Ridge flower beds, planted trees, removed invasive plants, cleaned the mailbox area, and worked to make our community Fire Wise.

That is who we are. That is why Saddle Ridge is such a special place to live on the “quiet” side of the Smokies.

Your Friend,

Alane Wyss - Environmental Committee

If you would like to volunteer for the Spring clean up, here is the link.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1z0y6ci77pJ3fmabiU3RY1YYfj8Lr1WWcysrAc4QtfYI/edit?ts=5e9e1c20#gid=891834841>

Treasurer's Report

SRPOA members received in a separate mailing the complete financial report for the 3rd Quarter of FY 2020 (July 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020). That report includes a summary of the changes we made to the format of our operating statement. Our overall cash position continues to be strong. Our inflows are nearing budget, and our outflows are near budget in most major areas. You should examine the report and send any questions or concerns to saddleridgepoa@gmail.com.

Lightning Bugs in Saddle Ridge an Interview with Lynn Faust

By Alex Wyss

Spring through early summer evenings are the best time to see our flashing neighbors, the fireflies. To learn more, I interviewed firefly expert and friend, Lynn Faust. Lynn is a passionate firefly researcher and highly sought consultant for wildlife documentaries including the Netflix BBC Nature Series that premiered this winter.

Alex. You are such a passionate expert on fireflies, how did you first get interested in fireflies?

Lynn. They were “lightning bugs” to me the first 38 years of my life. I liked them as anyone else from East TN does. I took them for granted as a magical summer phenomenon. I have always had an intense interest in all things nature- they were just one beautiful part. But in 1992 the NPS took our Elkmont cabins (that story is too long) and I wanted to make sure someone knew about our synchronous lightning bugs up there

Alex. What do you think is the most common myth about fireflies?

Lynn. Read my fireflies around the world chapter for actual myths. Almost every culture has wonderful beliefs usually associated with love, death. Most people believe there is “only one type of lightning bug” In reality here in East TN we have 25+ species.

Alex. For someone just learning about fireflies, what are some of the easier species to identify in Saddle Ridge?

Lynn. The big dippers (*Photinus pyralis*) are the sunset fireflies you chased as an East TN child in your yard. The blue ghosts *Phausis reticulata* eerily glow continuously for seconds to a minute- and fly low to the ground- very easy to ID because they are unique. You have low densities of *Photinus carolinus* the synchronous firefly that's popular at Elkmont. I cover 70 species in my book with many photos (600+) and flash charts.

Alex. Is it true that you discovered the synchronous fireflies in the Smokies?

Lynn. Sort of but not really. They had already been described by science by John Green in 1957 and Jim Lloyd in 1966- physical characteristics and general range (Appalachians from GA to NY). But, no one knew anything about the living creature. No one knew their seasonality, their life habits, their mating and courtship, eggs, larval habits, their lifespan, ideal habitat. I have tried to do that not only for this species but for many others around the world.

Alex. Do we have synchronous fireflies in Saddle Ridge?

Lynn. Yes, low densities from the little I have seen. You are at the lowest limit of their elevation requirements in East TN. As you go up in latitude, however, they come lower in elevation. In our area, 2400-3000' is their ideal elevation though they are found from Saddle Ridge up to Newfound Gap and even Clingmans Dome in low numbers.

Alex. How many species of fireflies do you think may live in Saddle Ridge?

Lynn. Just a guess but at least 16 species I would think. Each species has a narrow window of when the adults live, court, mate, and lay eggs (10 days to 2 weeks generally) There is some adult species of firefly active every month of the year with April, May, June the busiest months.

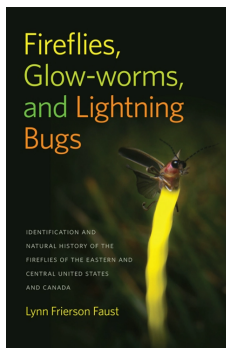
Alex. What are some measures that homeowners can take to conserve fireflies?

Lynn. Turn out outside lights at night if not needed. NO security lights!! Which actually do not make you any more secure. As dark as possible- shield all lights. Limit or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use. Intact habitat- groomed weedless mown lawns are deserts for most species. Each species is very habitat specific- some like openings, others like forest, others margins, others marshy areas.

Alex. Did you ever put fireflies in a jar as a child?

Lynn. YES! Of course, I am a child of East TN. But I urge parents to continue to allow the curiosity and magic of childhood BUT to release those same fireflies exactly where the child caught them before they go to bed otherwise they will be stinky and dead by morning most likely. BUT I always explain why I am doing this to the child- kids "Get it". I tell them they must be released where they were caught because that is their home- not inside a house where air-conditioned air quickly dries them out and kills them. I tell them the boys and girls must find one another and only live a few nights/weeks- and then mamas need to lay their eggs in just the perfect place. Then the babies, larvae, need to live in just the right place so they can find the correct food. Kids understand this and do not want the lightning bugs to die, but let them catch a few and see the magic. Plus. certain species go dark when scared (in a jar) and will not flash anyway. Other genera (Photuris- the predators- flash wildly when scared) they are the best ones in jars.

Alex. I highly recommend Lynn's book which may be purchased on Amazon [Fireflies, Glow-worms, and Lightning Bugs](#)



Saddle Ridge Road Report

by Sue DuBois, Chair, Road Committee

Maintaining the roads in Saddle Ridge accounts for more than half of our annual operating budget. Contracted work over the past few months includes adding rock on Chilhowee, Grouse Top, Oakwood, Walnut Flats, Journey's End, Gobbler Ridge, Dogwood Trail, Overlook, and Christa Trail. All roads have been graded at least once over the winter and primary roads more frequently. Wash-outs at Walnut Flat and Waters End since the last heavy rains have been corrected. Between the weather and Covid-19, the replacement of the culvert down at the pond has been on hold, but we are hoping to complete that project this spring.

Everyone in the community can help keep costs down with good driving habits and volunteering to help keep roads clear. Good driving habits include driving at or below the 20 mph speed limit, using all-wheel or 4-wheel drive on hills, and lowering speed around curves. Speeding within Saddle Ridge tears up the gravel roads and is unsafe. Minimize your trips. These roads are not made for joy-riding. Keeping the roads, culverts, and ditches clear will also help with road maintenance. Check to make sure the culverts running under your driveway are clear. Volunteer to clear the many culverts along the roads. Remove logs, branches, and other debris from the roads. This will help when we grade the roads. Please contact me to report any road issues or questions: Sue DuBois, by email - sodubois@gmail.com or call/text - 865-307-2532.



Two Ways to Help Walland Elementary School

1. Register with Kroger's school program: <https://www.kroger.com/topic/school-programs>
2. Register directly with the Box Top for Education <https://www.boxtops4education.com/>. The program is now digital. The Box Top for Education container has been removed from the kiosk.

Welcome to Saddle Ridge

New property owners:

Rebecca & Randy Rudder
Celeste & Dan Trott
Silverio Pardo

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, 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 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: Janet Kolarik | 865-805-0348

Vice President: Sue DuBois | 865-307-2532

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

Mary Glarner | 865-982-3432

Beth Koella | 865-705-0455

Keith Kennedy | 512-716-5059



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