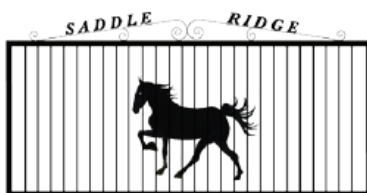


# The Ridge Rambler



**SRPOA Annual Meeting Saturday, July 16, 2016 - Don't Miss It!**

## President's Message

*by Steve Foster*

Spring is here and the woods are turning green again. Here in Saddle Ridge we are working to maintain and improve our community. Some projects have been completed, we are working on others, and planning still more.

Completed projects include erosion repair on both sides of the dam that forms the large lake. At the barn area you will see a new fence, a bridge across the stream, the debris pile relocated and covered, a new roof on the barn, and a new coat of paint on the trash barn. There is more work to do, but the updates so far are a big improvement. We need to develop a long range plan for our common areas.



The property has basically been neglected for several years, and now that we own it, we should put it to good use. Please contact any board member with your suggestions.

At the entry gate, work is underway to install concrete slabs to eliminate the potholes that form there. Since we cannot close the gate area to traffic, the concrete will be poured into

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Broad-winged hawk spotted at the pond, April, 2016.  
Photo by Liz Domingue

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forms placed off the road near the gate and allowed to cure. Once the slabs have cured (in about 30 days), the area under the gate will be excavated and the slabs placed in the roadbed. The gate sensing coils will be re-installed. Our goal is to accomplish this with minimal disruption of gate traffic. The days of persistent potholes are numbered.

Speaking of projects and work, we are always looking for volunteers to help. Committee work is one great way to get involved and meet your neighbors. The Saddle Ridge Property Owners Association has several committees that really make this community tick. We are in the process of writing mission statements and defining the roles and responsibilities of each committee. We will be posting these mission statements soon for each committee and encourage any and all association members to sign up for a committee. The more community involvement we have, the better Saddle Ridge will be for all of us.

## Board Announcements

**New Gate Codes Coming:** Everyone will be issued a new gate code this summer. Our gate system only allows a certain number of codes and since we are running out of slots, we need to clean up the list. You will receive your new personalized code in the POA dues mailing coming out in June/July. The LP companies, Pest companies and important emergency personal will still have codes, and the contractor codes which change every 3 months will remain.

**New Event Guidelines:** You've probably noticed all the work going on down at the barn area. The goal is to make this common area more attractive and usable as a nice place for a picnic or a gathering for the Saddle Ridge community. If any Saddle Ridge property owners would like to reserve the barn area for a special party or reception, we now have [Guidelines and an Application Form for Barn Area Events](#). Please contact Ann Tedford at 865-850-5387 or [saddleridgepoa@gmail.com](mailto:saddleridgepoa@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, May 16  
Saddle Ridge Book Club

Monday, June 6  
SRPOA Board Meeting

Saturday, July 16  
SRPOA Annual Meeting

## WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

Since July 2015:

Douglas and Jama Bryant  
Waters End

Fred and Ellen Deussing  
Chilhowee Loop

John and Debbie Gungl  
Christa Trail

Dale and Karen Richardson  
Oakwood

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**New Parking Guidelines:** The SRPOA board created [Parking Guidelines](#) for our roadways keeping in mind the safety of those traveling the roads, the protection of vehicles, and the beauty of the area surrounding the pond. If parking at the gate is a necessity, please use the area on the west side of Chilhowee Loop. The Board recently published new guidelines on parking in common areas in Saddle Ridge.

**Help Wanted:** After many years of faithfully and thoroughly cleaning out the trash barn every week, Martha Frink has decided to retire. The SRPOA Board is looking for someone to take on the task of cleaning the trash barn. It involves washing out the recycling bins and generally cleaning the inside of the trash barn every Monday after the trash and recycling are picked up. It requires a commitment of 30-60 minutes every Monday morning. There is a small stipend for doing the job. If you are interested, contact the Board at [saddleridgepoa@gmail.com](mailto:saddleridgepoa@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

**Thank you Martha for doing such a great job all these years!**

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## New Saddle Ridge Map

SRPOA Board member, Hugh Pearson, has created a new digital map of Saddle Ridge with parcel numbers, roads, and a grid overlay. The map will be useful for a variety of purposes, including making it much easier to identify sections of the roads in need of maintenance and alerting residents who will be affected by road projects. To download the map from the Saddle Ridge website go to: [Saddle Ridge Road Map](#)

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Board members and committee chairs are listed below and also on the [Saddle Ridge website](#)

**President:**

Steve Foster  
859-494-7299

**Vice President:**

Hugh Pearson  
865-982-5729

**Treasurer:**

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

**Secretary:**

Lynn Hopps  
865-984-7729

**Recorder:**

Ann Tedford  
865-980-1757

**Board Members:**

Darin Suggs  
865-804-6449

Debra James  
865-982-8723

Sue DuBois  
407-758-8275

## Fall and Winter Recap:



Volunteers pitched in time and money to put a new roof on the barn and clean up the area. We still have some more work to do but it's looking much better down there.

Residents enjoyed a **Fall Picnic** down at the barn on Halloween. The Hospitality Committee, chaired by Ann Tedford, did another great job of organizing the food and festivities.

Volunteers decorated the barn with festive lights for the holiday season. Many thanks to Larry Elder for donating the lights again!



Winding down winter, Judy Pearson hosted the **Annual Ladies Potluck** on March 1. It was the highest attended in the last few years and quite a feast.

## Seasonal Activities

### Remember to be Firewise –

Life is great surrounded by woods but try to keep a safe zone around your house and know your evacuation route just in case. Clear dead leaves and pine needles from around your house. For more information on firewise living visit [burnsafetn.org](http://burnsafetn.org)

**Respect the bears** – Don't leave food or trash out, keep your grill clean, keep bird feeders out of reach. If you see a bear, keep a safe distance, but don't panic. Bears want to avoid you. See [Living with Bears in Saddle Ridge](http://LivingwithBearsinSaddleRidge.com).

**Be mindful of snakes** – The warmer weather brings them out looking for food and mates. Snakes play an important role in the environment. We do have venomous copperheads and rattlesnakes so be aware but your chances of being bitten are very small. For more on the wildlife of Saddle Ridge visit [Wildlife in Our Community](http://WildlifeinOurCommunity.com).

**Plant Native** – Landscape with native plants to add color and attract butterflies and hummingbirds. There are some great resources for finding native plants on the [Tennessee Native Plant Society website](http://TennesseeNativePlantSociety.com).



## Spring Cleanup

Many thanks to all who came out for the Saddle Ridge Spring Cleanup. Volunteers picked up trash along East Millers Cove Road, weeded and mulched the community flower beds, and painted the trash barn. Thanks for beautifying our neighborhood!



## Get Involved

Saddle Ridge is full of neighbors who pitch in to make this a great place to live. Special thanks to all those who help out during special projects, like the barn repairs, Fall and Spring cleanup, and to those that serve on the SRPOA board and committees.

We are looking for more people who would like to serve on the SRPOA committees. The mission statements for each of the committees will be posted soon. Visit the SRPOA website for more information on what each of the committees do. If you are interested please contact a board member or email [saddleridgepoa@gmail.com](mailto:saddleridgepoa@gmail.com).

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## Spring Flowers

Spring is a very active time in the mountains. The hillsides are turning green, frogs and birds are singing, butterflies and bees are in the air, bears are on the move, and flowers are popping out everywhere.

*Pictured below: bird's foot violet, bloodroot, sweet white violet, Halberd-leaf violet, Fleabane*



## Interests & Activities

Warmer weather is back! Time to get outside and have some fun.

Are you a golfer? Smitty is putting together a men's golfing group. If you are interested in participating, please contact him at [tennsmitty@gmail.com](mailto:tennsmitty@gmail.com).

If you have an idea for another group activity, please contact us at [saddleridgepoa@gmail.com](mailto:saddleridgepoa@gmail.com), and we will post it to our web site.

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Welcome and Hospitality Committee - Ann Tedford

Beautification Committee - Debra James

Communications Committee - Lynn Hopps

Road Committee - Darin Suggs

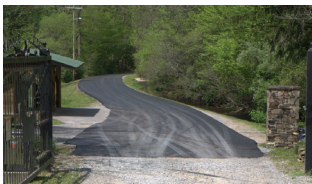
Architectural Committee - Darin Suggs

## Check Your Speed

Please remember the speed LIMIT is 20 mph. It is much better to drive around Saddle Ridge at speeds LESS than 20 mph. This rule of thumb is never truer than during these dry spells. If you look in your rear view mirror and see dust billowing up behind your car, that's a sign you need to slow down.

- Slower speeds help maintain our roads, which means less money we have to spend on gravel and grading.
- Be neighborly. If you see someone hiking on the road, slow down so you don't leave them in a cloud of dust, or better yet, stop and say hello!
- It is safer for all: other drivers, hikers, and wildlife. Slow down when approaching narrow or blind spots. If you are driving down the hill and meet someone coming up, give them the right-of-way so they can maintain their speed climbing the hill.

## Roads Repaved



Saddle Ridge Road and sections of East Millers Cove were recently repaved. It's a much smoother ride out of Saddle Ridge these days.

## Nature Walks in Saddle Ridge.



Saddle Ridge resident and environmentalist, Alex Wyss, took a group of Saddle Ridge residents on a "frog walk" of the pond in March to listen to and identify the many species of frogs and toads that live here. The chorus of American toads and spring peepers calling for mates was almost deafening at some spots along the walk along the wetlands.



The pond and wetlands along Chilhowee Loop are a great place to walk and view wildlife. Wetlands provide a host of natural benefits including water purification, flood prevention, and habitat for a healthy variety of fish, frogs, birds, mammals and others. Our Saddle Ridge wetlands are a unique treasure. Stay tuned for future nature walks.