

SEASONS@BRL



- * **Annual Meeting & Election Results**
- * **Community Spring Cleaning**
- * **How Does Your Garden Grow?**
- * **National Wildlife Federation Garden**
- * **Life In Balance From The Porch**

BRL Community Association 2024 Annual Meeting

New Neighbors, New Homes!

BRL residents, property owners and brand new neighbors happily gathered at our Community Lodge for our annual meeting on Saturday evening March 16.

Our Directors and Committee Chairpersons gave a brief report highlighting the following completed projects since last March.

- * Restoration of the Construction Road from SR 208
- * Paving the Main Entry Road, Lodge Parking & Mailbox Areas
- * The updated Architectural Guidelines Documents released in January
- * BRL became a National Wildlife Federation certified Wildlife Preserve Community in October
- * The debut of Seasons@BRL Community E-Magazine
- * Research for a possible Laurel Fire Department Sub-Station on site at our stables area
- * Continuing the research & work to update the BRL Covenants(C&Rs) that are still in progress

New Projects-

- * Evaluating our community streets for repair and safety in 2024
- * Exploring eligibility for State and Federal Grants in 2024
- * Three new homes will be in different stages of construction this spring as we welcome the Irving family, the Mederos family and the Phillips family to our community.

Our elections went as expected with Jason Goldstein and Mike Foster being re-elected to the board as they ran unopposed. The subsequent Board of Director's meeting established our **2024 BRL Board to be President Jason Goldstein, Vice President Kent Brooks, Secretary Mike Foster, Director Dave Wellendorf and Director Joy Coelho.** The Board wishes to recognize and thank Dave Bell for his continued service as Treasurer and also welcomes Jay Denman and Tom Fink to the ARC Committee. We wish to thank John Welty for all of his years of service to our ARC, board and community.

Food & refreshments were enjoyed and everyone had the chance to relax in the Lodge and visit with old friends and meet new neighbors.



Spring Cleaning

Our maintenance committee conducted our seasonal brush pile burn with the Laurel Fire Department to clean up the accumulated fallen trees and brush. Our burn pile takes place safely at a designated open space on the stables acreage. Only collected plant material from the common areas are incinerated, no man made trash or private property debris or cuttings are allowed. The committee also chose the right wood from our fallen trees to split into firewood. It is now neatly stored beside the community mailboxes for our Lodge fire pit and indoor fireplace.

We want to thank the maintenance committee for saving us money by volunteering their elbow grease. We also wish to thank Bob Carnes for the use of his log splitter that saved both time and what it would cost to rent the machine.

The front doors and entry to our Lodge got a Springtime facelift too thanks to Joy and Jay. Two bronze tone kick plates were installed to compliment the freshly bronze painted handles. Both of the entry side planters were graced with begonias and ivy (hoping a late season night time freeze wont occur!) Mike Foster had already installed a new bronze digital lock.



How does Your Garden Grow?

Mindful gardening and landscaping can bring your homestead to life. Now is the time to make your plan and pick the perfect plants to make your homesite unique and beautiful.

A clever plan can also fill your dinner plate if you choose smart planting strategies and brilliant containers. Native plants thrive with little maintenance out in the yard, but on your deck using self watering rolling raised beds thwart deer intentionally thus saving veggies and berries.

Figuring out what is best to plant can be daunting. How do you overcome our clay and rocky soil, what sun exposure and shady areas are you hoping to plant? AND one of the most important questions ...what plants are deer resistant? New significant landscape plans do require an ARC submission.

Since BRL has become a certified Community Wildlife Habitat, know that you have classes and workshops available to you at Reems Creek Nursery. Most of these classes are free. Here are upcoming June classes that haven't been posted yet BUT you have a sneak peak.

* Plant a Pollinator Garden with Ruth Gonzalez & Julie Wynne
Sat June 15, 2024 at 10 – 11:30 am

* Introduction to Pollinators With Althea Anderson
Wed June 19, 2024 at 10 am... more classes coming!

You can register at <https://reemscreek.com/events/>

Reems Creek experts can help you navigate your landscape plan and provide professional insight, options and inspiration in just a visit without a class.

By the way, you can certify your own garden or property with the NWF simply by following the directions on the next page. Our BRL community certification was extremely tedious and much more involved with specific criteria and requirements BUT your certification requirements are a breeze!

Love Your Wildlife Habitat Garden!



You LOVE Your Garden & Your Garden LOVES you Back!
The health, food and happiness that your beautiful flowers, native plants & trees bring you every day also benefits the lives of your wildlife neighbors. This is a wonderful time to elevate your well-loved garden ecosphere by becoming a *Certified Wildlife Habitat*® by *the National Wildlife Federation*.

Your mindful and eco-friendly practices can finally be awarded by simply clicking www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat or phone scanning the QR code. Tell us how your yard or garden provides habitat and the National Wildlife Federation will recognize it as a Certified Wildlife Habitat®.

Honor your garden with a NWF certification
*Thank You for supporting your
native flora & wild fauna!*



Life In Balance... from the Porch

Enjoying coffee on my front porch is a ritual that encourages an inner rampage of gratitude for the natural beauty I have the privilege of watching unfold each day. Every season brings a different landscape into focus much like the turning of a kaleidoscope.

As the morning sun floods the wooded ridge line, it is met with an enthusiastic symphony of bird songs signifying the end of winter. The fresh cool air roots me into being truly present in the beginning of a new day. Spring is finally here!

The calming rhythm of our rolling river always helps to evaporate any stress. The environment on my deck has been mindfully curated to facilitate relaxation and rejuvenation in great comfort.

Welcoming back the hummingbirds from their winter migration is always exciting. I have a nectar feeder strategically placed on a railing platform only four feet from my favorite deck chair.

This is where my handheld hummingbird feeders come into play. These colorful feeders sit in the palm of your hand and when the hummers visit the main deck feeder, they will usually perch on your thumb as they drink from the hand feeder... this is a MAGIC experience. This is why hummingbirds grace this edition's cover. It is important to mention that my feeders come in at sunset just so I don't encourage other critters.

As the sunsets, I love to spend time at a glowing campfire. A circle of Adirondack chairs with comfy cushions around the fire pit under a star filled sky is nothing less than enchanting. Making S'mores or firebox popcorn, evokes great childhood memories. This is the space where hopes and dreams get the traction to manifest during these cozy and creative conversations with friends and family.

Watching the sunrise and the sunset supports our circadian rhythm and this guides our genetic primal blueprint that promotes wellness on several biological levels. Clean mountain air and water from our wells also are longevity luxuries. Being immersed in this wild and thriving location enriches us all and makes us strive to be good stewards.

Slipping into bed with an open window invites the crisp air and the melodious sounds of the river inside to encourage a great night's sleep.

Building my forever home in Bear River Lodge has been such a gift to my health, my everyday life, and most importantly my longevity. I hope all my BRL neighbors are enjoying the serene beauty each season brings to your homestead. Happy Spring and ENJOY!

BRL Resources

Vacation Destination BRL

The locations listed are featured on Airb&b & VRBO and are individually owned Vacation Homes in BRL

* SkyView Mountain Retreat & River Haven at RiverDance-
www.RiverDanceNC.com or (847) 809 3098

* Water's Edge Cabin-
<https://www.vrbo.com/410179>

* Wildcat Cove Mountain Home-
<https://www.vrbo.com/2655327>

* Mountain OverLook BlueRidge Retreat-
<https://www.vrbo.com/1175018>

Helpful Links

Bear River Lodge Website- <https://www.brlca.com>

BRL Architectural Guidelines and Covenants & Restrictions:

<https://www.brlca.com/documents/>

Madison County Environmental Services Department (Septic & Well)

<https://www.madisoncountyhealth.org/environmental-health.html>

The next Seasons@BRL e-magazine will be delivered July 2024
Issue Number 5- "Summer 2024 Edition"

Please send ALL submissions and inquiries to- SeasonsEditorBRL@Gmail.com
Editor Joy Coelho, BRLCA Board of Directors

Deadline for Summer 2024 Edition - June 1 2024 by 5pm EST