

SEASONS@BRL

2025
Annual Meeting
March 15
5PM at
The Lodge

- * **Annual Meeting & 2025 Elections**
- * **Lodge Holiday Decor Highlights**
- * **Gaining Your Green Thumb**
- * **National Wildlife Foundation Awards BRL**
- * **Tracking Forest Fauna**

BRL Community Association 2025 Annual Meeting

Elections, New Neighbors & Three New Homes!

BRL residents, property owners and brand new neighbors are invited to our Community Lodge for our **2025 Annual Meeting** on **Saturday March 15 at 5pm.**

This year we have three director seats up for election. If you would like to run for a two year term on our Board of Directors simply send your intention to run for office to BRL Secretary Mike Foster via email at mefoster8@gmail.com.

Once all the nominations are received, the ballots will be mailed out to you shortly thereafter. Be sure to watch for those ballots in your USPS mail so that you may vote for the three candidates of your choice. The winners will be announced at the annual meeting.

As of the writing of this article, three of our current directors: Kent Brooks, Joy Coelho and Dave Wellendorf have announced that they are running for re-election. Tom Fink, who serves on the ARC and assists the Maintenance Committee, has also announced his candidacy for one of the three 2025-2027 director seats.

Our Board of Directors, our Treasurer, and our committee chairpersons will be giving their reports of the projects completed and proposed ideas to be slated in 2025. Here are some of our 2024 accomplishments-

- * Roadway paving repairs, of over 10,000 square feet, were completed on Bear River Lodge Trail and Thunder Trail.
- * BRL was awarded our second year national certification by the National Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife Habitat Community on December 17, 2024 for our outstanding stewardship.
- * The Directors are at the final polish and legal updates of our BRL Covenants (C&Rs) so that voting for these changes can be scheduled.
- * Decades old corral fencing at the stables are no longer an eyesore thanks to Kent Brooks, Mike Foster, Dave Bell and Tom Fink. All the labor was completed by these Maintenance Committee members & neighborhood volunteers.
- * The updated Architectural Guidelines were completed and released.
- * See you at the meeting!

We welcome the Irving family, the Mederos family and the Phillips family as these new homes are near completion. Congratulations to the Mederos home who received their C/O from Madison County before Christmas. We also welcome to our community the Widenhouse family, and the Brodhead family who purchased existing homes in our beautiful neighborhood.



The BlueRidge Log Cabins crane crew artfully setting the roof peak on the Phillips new home in December. The home was fully dried in before our BRL community experienced a week of snowfall. The Irving home and the Phillips home are scheduled for completion in the first portion of 2025.





The Lodge
Dressed For The
Holidays...
In Case You
Missed It



Gaining your Green Thumb in 2025

Now is the time to make your garden plan and pick the perfect plants to make your forest homesite unique and beautiful.

Native plants thrive with little maintenance out in the yard, but on your deck using self watering rolling raised beds will thwart deer, thus saving your veggies.

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 nationally 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 classes-

Seed Starting Workshop - FREE - with Dave and Susan

Saturday, Feb. 8th: 10-11:30 AM

Valentine's Terrarium Workshop - Make and Take - with Kira and Cristi

This will require a fee, price TBD.

Friday, Feb. 14th: 3:30 - 5PM

Growing Fruit 101 - FREE - with Joy Lew

Saturday, Feb. 22nd: 10-11:30.

As we get closer to these dates they will have more information and pictures on their website, in their newsletter, and on their social media.

Reems Creek experts can also 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 checking out the next page. Our BRL Community Habitat Certification was much more involved with specific criteria and requirements BUT your personal home garden habitat certification requirements are easy, fun and good for our wildlife neighbors.

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!



Common Porcupine



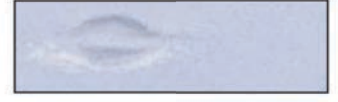
Gray Squirrel



Eastern Chipmunk



Moose



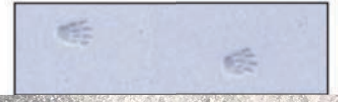
Black Bear



American Beaver



Gray Wolf



I love to follow tracks in the fresh fallen snow on my property. Do you know what it was? You can use this website to figure out who has come to visit.

www.Almanac.com/content/animal-track-identification

BRL Resources

Vacation Destination BRL

The locations listed may be 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>

*The Chalet at WaterStone-
Email: PureGreenJoy@Gmail.com for information

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 April 2025
Issue Number 8- "Spring 2025 Edition"

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

Deadline for Spring 2025 Edition -March 20, 2025 by 5pm EST