



Spring/Summer

May 2011

Annual Meeting of Bear Paw Property Owners Association and Election

The annual meeting of the Bear Paw Property Owners Association (BPPOA) is May 28, 2011 at 1:00 PM in the Bear Paw Clubhouse. The proposed agenda includes discussion of last, current and next year's plans/activities and election of directors for the BPPOA Board. You may vote in person or by proxy, a copy of which is enclosed in this newsletter. If you vote by proxy, fill out the form completely and ensure it is filed, preferably by the person given your proxy, with the BPPOA Secretary at the Bear Paw Office before the meeting or mail your proxy to BPPOA, 60 Village Rd. Murphy, NC 28906. Remember, one vote per lot regardless of the number of co-owners; and taxes must be current.

Three directors will be elected at this meeting. The nominating committee has recommended Jack Smith, Arthur Lecours and Jim Kelley. Steve Darnell has decided not to run for a second term. All have expressed a desire to get involved with the operations of Bear Paw. A short bio on Jack, Arthur and Jim is provided below. A director must be a BPPOA property owner in good standing throughout his/her term of office, must be 21 years of age and can serve a maximum of two consecutive two-year terms. Any qualified member may officially declare their candidacy at the meeting. BPPOA directors will be submitted to the Cherokee County Commissioners to become Bear Paw Service District Directors.

Jack Smith has had a home in Bear Paw for nine years. He and his wife Barbara have four children, Todd, Julie, Jenny and Krissy. He also has six grandchildren. He has an impressive financial background. He is now retired from his business interest. He has served the last two years on the Board; the first year as Finance Officer and the last year as Chairman of the Board.

Arthur Lecours has been a resident of Bear Paw since 1999. He and his wife Christy have two daughters, Cassidy and Jenna. He has worked for the past 26 years with UPS and is currently a Director of Global Account Sales and is based in Atlanta, GA. Arthur is completing his first term on the Board and currently is the Secretary.

Jim Kelley is a retired pediatric dentist from Sandy Springs, GA. He and his wife, Nancy, have been homeowners in Bear Paw for 37 years. In the 1990's he served on the Board of the Bear Paw Property Owners Association for 5 years, serving as President for one year and Treasurer for two years. Similarly, he served on the Board of the Bear Paw Service District for 5 years, one year as Chairman and two years as Finance Officer.

Bear Paw Website

The Bear Paw website is a good place to see what's going on in our community and keep up to date on current activities. Please visit bearpawnc.com and look around.

Clubhouse

Several major projects have been completed the last few years. The pool, upstairs and restrooms have all been renovated. An All-Dry system has been installed to take care of the water issue in the clubhouse and it has worked successfully. Future projects are being prioritized by the Board. Once they are prioritized they will have to be budgeted for by the Board. One of the future projects is the outside entrance to the restrooms. This area needs some concrete work to make the entrance area safer and hopefully more appealing. Another project under consideration is whether to add insulation to the upstairs or install a cooling unit for this space. The current cooling system will not handle cooling the upstairs during the summer. This makes it uncomfortable for the various groups that use this space. Another project involves repairing siding and addressing any water leaks around the I-Beams on the roof. The kitchen and lobby area need to be painted at some point as well.

This spring a storm caused a tree to fall on the skateroom side of the clubhouse. I have estimates on the cost to repair the damage. The amount received from the insurance will be enough to repair the damage caused by the storm. This part of the building has some damage from leaks around the I-Beams; we are trying to repair these as well as the storm damage. The bulletin board was destroyed by the storm and will be replaced as well.

I shopped insurance this winter and was able to purchase the same coverage as we had plus adding earthquake insurance and increased medical pay benefits from \$5000 to \$10,000 at a savings of \$1,644 per year.

Instead of hiring outside help we are utilizing two of our guards to help out around the clubhouse only when needed. Donna Peters will clean the clubhouse. Kathy Murphy will fill in for Chrissie when needed.

For all future projects on the clubhouse I will be consulting with Terry Woodworth, who was over the clubhouse renovation at the beginning. I would also like to thank Bob Edwards for his plans for the restrooms and his advice on future projects as well. Thanks as well to Jean Murtagh for her help and advice on the restrooms.

Pool

We are looking forward to another successful summer with the pool. The last two summers have been very busy, as the pool has had a lot of use. The freeze guard worked great during the cold winter months. In April I have been checking and balancing the water in preparation for the opening in May. Inside the gate area of the pool is now a "tobacco free area". We will post signs inside the fenced area and would like your help in honoring this new policy.

I would like to thank the "Ladies Auxiliary". They will be buying new garbage cans, a runner for the restroom hallway and cigarette butt cans for the clubhouse/pool area.

Security

Several issues with the guardhouse were corrected this winter. A new hot water heater was installed. The pressure reducer on the water line was replaced so the system would work properly. The gate heater was replaced so the gate would work properly in cold weather. We are looking at other improvements to the guard house as the budget allows.

For the convenience of residents; forms are now available at the guard house to get new car stickers. Zoning forms are also available, "Application for Zoning Certificate", "Tree Removal Forms" and "Guide to Building in Bear Paw". I can also email you these forms. Contact

Randy Barton, Zoning Administrator at randybarton11@gmail.com.

We purchased a new security camera system this spring. The old system was a VCR tape system that was 10 years old (obsolete) and was worn out from continuous play. The new security camera is an entire system with a 4-camera package (one with external adjustments to zoom in on license plates) with 17" LCD monitor. This is a turn key solution that includes everything we need to set up a full-featured video surveillance system. It includes 4 weatherproof 65' night-vision color cameras, works in darkness or light. It has a 4-camera digital video recorder with pre-installed 500GB hard drive and stores weeks of video evidence that easily offloads via USB or onto your network. It includes a remote control, USB mouse, 60' video cables, power supplies, etc.

Roads

We have had a snowy, bad winter in Bear Paw. The roads have some damage as a result. Because of many snows, we went over budget on snow removal and salt used. The salt spreader that was purchased definitely was needed this winter. Claude Hughes does appreciate it and says it works very well. It was bad enough to require scraping the roads at one point this winter, so people could get in and out.

We will be repainting the lines in the curves on Village Road this spring, as they are faded and need refreshing. I had Crisp Paving come out this spring to look at the roads damaged this winter. The road committee (Jim Awbrey, Dave Black) will be looking at the roads in late April. After getting distances and other information the Board can decide what actions to take, either this spring or early fall to correct the road damage.

Grounds

We will be starting a Kudzu removal project this spring. We will also follow up on this each year to keep it under control. Over the winter I took classes and tests to obtain a commercial license to spray herbicides. This was less expensive than bringing in a commercial company to spray Bear Paw. I will be working with Claude Hughes to

spray the areas that need control on Bear Paw Service District property only. Individual homeowners can obtain private companies or individuals to spray their property. We hope that all will do this so we can eliminate this problem.

I have also recommended that the Kudzu Removal Program can be used in the "Wildfire Assessment Plan" that will be one of the first steps taken in the process of Bear Paw becoming a Firewise Community. The Firewise Committee was formed this spring to begin this project. Current Board member, Ron Taylor, has volunteered to be the Chairperson for this committee. Other committee members are Denise Wise, Charlie Smoot Jr. and Mike Maul. The Firewise Community program is a separate program from the CPP program that many have signed up for. The CPP (fuel mitigation) program is a federal program administered by the state. It has undergone audits and at this time is on hold, according to Charles Choplin (Forest Service). We will pursue the Firewise Community program with the Firewise Committee that was formed this year. As this project moves along we could possibly qualify for grant money.

Lime was applied to the entrance to Bear Paw again this spring. The Board is also looking into a site to park boat trailers. One area that is considered is the burn site. It could be used with the least amount of expenditure to make it useable.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the ladies and other volunteers for all the work they do on the grounds.

Zoning

This is just a reminder that all zoning is handled in our business office. Please contact Randy Barton, Bear Paw Service District Manager at (828)644-0808. My e-mail is randybarton11@gmail.com. Chrissie Howard, Business Office Administrator is also the Assistant Zoning Administrator. You can contact Chrissie at the same office number. Please note that we have a Tree Ordinance and a tree preservation plan is needed along with other requirements. Please refer to our website at bearpawnc.com. If you have any questions we

will be glad to assist you. Please note that it is an excellent source to get information from. You may access the meeting minutes, newsletters and events to name a few.

Please note to all potential home builders, it is your responsibility to contain run-off from your driveways. It is the homeowner's responsibility to not compromise the integrity of the roads during construction. Please help keep Bear Paw the beautiful place we all want.

Randy Barton
Bear Paw Service District Manager

Our CPP Fire Prevention Program Is On Temporary Hold

Over 150 Bear Paw property owners signed up last fall for the federal government brush and natural debris removal program. Unfortunately the program had to be suspended because of funding and operational issues. We have met with the local ranger state forestry service Charles Choplin and he has reassured us that we are first in line when the program is reinstated. The original program consisted of three alternatives- brush removal, grinding and control burn. Their program was to have the local ranger assess the project which Charles has done for Bear Paw. Once lot lines were defined then they would use a subcontractor with a special Bobcat that cuts and collects the brush thru the front of the machine and grinds it and spreads it out on the spot out the back of the machine. A one stop no handling operation. Charles estimates that 70% of our area would be worked in this manner. The remaining 30% would have to be hand cut which they would do and then Bear Paw or the property owner would have to remove it from the site and dispose of it. The control burn concept is for a large open area where a perimeter area is cleared i.e. fire break and then the inside area is burned under their supervision. He believes only a few areas if any in Bear Paw are applicable for this alternative. Overall Charles estimates it will take 6-8 weeks to complete Bear Paw. Since that time a second program called Firewise has been developed which we would qualify for. It is a 80/20 grant program though the federal

government that is broader in scope consisting of the brush and natural debris removal program as above plus road development for fire equipment access, signage and a firewise community education program. There are several application slips required including each property owners assessment of his area i.e. two page score card questionnaire, and a community area business or development plan. This material is submitted for review and if approved the grant provides up to \$20,000 in federal funding with the community funding 20% or \$5,000.

Overriding either of these programs is the requirement that no kudzu be active in the grinding and removal area since grinding up the kudzu only spreads it. Therefore our immediate first step is to move more quickly on our Kudzu Removal Program this spring. Once completed, hopefully we can have the firewise development plan ready for submission and/or funding for the original CPP program will be available. Our next update on this important program will be at our upcoming Memorial Day weekend homeowner's association meeting. See you there.

Ron Taylor,
Board Member
Firewise Committee Chairperson

Volunteers Needed

More and more is happening every day in Bear Paw. Volunteers greatly enhance the quality of life in our community by maintaining flower beds, assisting in the office, sponsoring social events, and helping with local charitable activities. If you'd like to contribute and/or be involved, contact Chrissie in the office.

Thanks to our Volunteers

Bear Paw would like to say "Thank You" to our volunteers who keep Bear Paw beautiful. Many hours of hard labor are spent each year to keep our flower gardens looking beautiful so that we may all enjoy them, so to all of you, we say thank you.

Garage Sale

The Bear Paw Ladies Auxiliary will hold their annual garage sale Saturday, August 13th from 9:00 am till 1:00 pm. Please bring your donations to the Pavilion and place them outside the old skate room. NO MATTRESSES, BOX SPRINGS OR WORN CHAIRS OR SOFAS. The pricing/work day will be July 29th @ 10:00 am. Anyone who is available is welcome. All proceeds will go toward community improvement projects.

Spring Covered Dish Social

All property owners and guests are invited to the Spring Social, Sunday, May 29th at the Clubhouse Pavilion from 6:00-11:00 PM. Come dine with your neighbors! Entertainment will be provided. Bring your family and visiting friends. Bring a covered dish to share. Non-alcoholic drinks provided. \$5 over 16yrs.old, ½ price for ½ pints over 5 yrs. Old. Please call Chrissie at the office (828)644-0808 if you have questions or would like to assist...help is needed and volunteers are appreciated.

Wanted

Volunteers willing to pull weeds, water, trim bushes/trees, spread mulch, and “adopt” their own area of the common areas around the clubhouse, tennis courts, and swimming pool. No experience or knowledge needed. We will teach you. Do as little or as much as you like. You will be awarded with good fresh air and a sense of ownership. Besides where else can you visit with all your neighbors “as they see your better side”? Remember, only lawn mowing is done by paid professionals....the rest is taken care of by your neighbors out of the goodness of their heart.

Denise Wise

Next Scheduled Meetings

May 14 BPSD Budget Hearing
May 28 BPSD Regular Meeting
May 28 BPPOA Annual Mtg.
July 2 BPSD Organizational Mtg.
All meetings are in the Clubhouse at 9:00 AM except the BPPOA meeting which is at 1:00 PM. The BPPOA meeting is the annual meeting including election of officers.

HOMEOWNER INFORMATION

If you have a new address, phone number, email address etc. please let the office know so that we may keep your contact information current. You may email this info or send it by mail to the following address:

**Bear Paw Service District
60 Village Rd. Murphy, NC 28906**

This newsletter is paid for by the BPPOA

Voluntary contributions of \$5 are very much appreciated. Please make checks payable to BPPOA and mail to: Bear Paw Property Owners Assn., 60 Village Rd., Murphy, NC 28906.

BEAR PAW ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

ACTIVITIES

Ladies Sewing and Craft Night

Bring your current project to finish

Date and time pending

Yoga

Free

Date and time pending

Line Dancing

Date and time pending

Men's Card Night

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm Clubhouse

Contact: Tony (828)644-9584

Ladies Out to Lunch

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 11:30 am

Contact: Eileen (828)644-9374

Gardening

Contact: Denise (770) 971-0770 or (828) 644-5999

Jean (828) 644-9218 or Manya (828) 644-9592

Bridge

Date and time pending

Anyone interested in playing bridge for fun.

Beginners Welcome

Contact: Linda (828) 644-5990

Activities with Dates and Times pending will be posted on our website as soon as decided. You may also call Chrissie at the office (828) for dates and times.

Free book exchange in the clubhouse: There are shelves of books for you to borrow, read and return. Donated books are welcome.

Free Wi-Fi at the Club House

EVENTS

Memorial Weekend

Saturday May 28th 9:00 am BPSD Regular Meeting
Saturday May 28th 1:00 pm BPPOA Annual Meeting

Sunday May 29th 6:00 pm Spring Social @ Clubhouse

4th of July Activities

Sunday July 3rd
12:00 pm till 2:30 pm Customer Appreciation Lunch at the Marina
Contact: Mary Maul (828) 644-5451

Sunday July 3rd
4:00 pm The 5th Annual Golf Cart Parade
Decorate your golf cart, ATV, Amish Wagon or whatever moves and join in. Spectators welcome. Get route map from The guard shack. Contact: Tricia (828)644-0835

Monday July 4th Boat Parade
Decorate your boat for the 4th of July and join in the parade or watch from the shore. Prizes awarded. Sponsored by Mountain View Marina

Monday July 4th
At Dark Fireworks on the Lake
Take your boat out or watch from shore. Every year Mountain View Marina puts on a fantastic show: Donations welcome to defray the cost.

BP Ladies Auxiliary Garage Sale

August 13th 9:00 am till 1:00 pm Great items at great prices. Proceeds go to clubhouse
Clubhouse improvement. Contact: Jean Murtagh (828) 644-9218

Check out our website @ bearpawnc.com

Proxy for the 2011 Election of Directors
To the Bear Paw Property Owners Association
Board of Directors

I give (print the name) _____ my proxy to vote at the May 28, 2011 Bear Paw Property Owners Association meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, for the election of directors, on any other issues or matters raised at that meeting and to act on my behalf in any other business as if I personally was present. This proxy revokes all previous proxies.

I certify I am the owner, or duly authorized representative of multiple owners, of _____ lot/s (indicate number of lots) located in Bear Paw, and that all taxes have been paid on this/these lot(s).

Date: _____ Owner's Signature: _____
Print Owner's Name: _____

Bear Paw Service District
60 Village Rd.
Murphy, North Carolina 28906



**BEAR PAW
60 VILLAGE ROAD
MURPHY, NC 28906**