



View from the summit of our upper trail

The Settings SUN *Summer 2020 Newsletter*

Editors – Jim and Linda Barber

Summer is Here!

Hi Everyone!

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. It's nice to have the warmer weather and be able to be outdoors more. In this issue, you will see some of the beautiful plants and animals that neighbors have been enjoying on their walks and hikes through The Settings. First though, let me share with you some highlights of what the Board has been working on....

What's been completed...

- A quorum of property owners voted and we have Michael Arones and Ed Kmiec returning to the Board. Thanks to Michael and Ed for signing up for another 3 year term and to Jim Simpson for throwing his name in the hat!
- The 2020-2021 Board of Directors are
 - Roynan Jones, President
 - David Gramley, Vice President
 - Elizabeth Green, Secretary
 - Leesa Hattori, Treasurer
 - Michael Arones
 - Ed Kmiec
 - Jim Barber
- The clubhouse patio and lawn projects are complete and look great! This fixed

a drainage problem we were having at the rear of the clubhouse.

- The limited financial review of our 2019 financial statements has been completed and there are no findings noted by the auditor.

What the Board is working on...

- We are updating our long term reserve study. The reserve fund provides the money necessary for major repair and replacement projects to our facilities, amenities and infrastructure.
- We are completing a replacement cost study for HOA property to ensure our insurance coverage is adequate.
- The May 2020 Annual Meeting will be rescheduled for September, assuming no restrictions due to the pandemic. The details are still being worked out. There will not be a Fall Gathering this year.
- Road maintenance will be starting in the next month or so.

Interest in our community has increased! There has been an increase in Google searches for The Settings with an average of 2488 views per month over the six months prior to April AND an all-time high of 3931 views in May. In addition, pending sales have increased in the last few weeks.

The Design Review Board (DRB) continues to be very busy, they are currently managing 13 properties at various states of construction. We really appreciate all their time and effort!

To ensure you are up to date on important information, please make sure your postal service mailing address along with your email address are up to date with our property management company, FirstServices Residential (FSR). You can either complete the Owner Information Update Sheet found on the FirstServices Residential website, or contact our management company, FirstServices Residential, at settingsofblackmountain.nc@fsresidential.com.

With the pandemic, many planned events have been cancelled and we've had more time on our hands. Some of us are spending more time in our gardens, others though are spending more time making our common areas more beautiful. A special THANK YOU to Jim and Linda Barber for purchasing and planting new bushes and flowers in the fountain pond area. They even bought a beautiful bench so people can sit and enjoy the view! I hope you can check it out sometime soon.

Thank you and stay healthy!

Roynan

Our Home in the Trees!

by Jim Barber

Joyce Kilmer said it best - *I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.*

And a founding principle of The Settings has been and continues to be our desire to protect and preserve our natural forested landscape.

Trees have been a major influence on western North Carolina's heritage and economy with the logging industry. Trees are one of our most plentiful renewable resources. By the late 19th century the forests of the north had been depleted and logging firms turned to the virgin forests of Southern Appalachia. The extension of the railroad to Black Mountain in 1879 was a primary means for transporting timber out of the area. Locally, most of the logging was in the higher elevations of the Black Mountains where the spruce-fir forest was. The abusive logging practices of loggers stripping bare the Black Mountain slopes led the state and federal governments to acquire land beginning in the 1920's for better sound forest management. These acquisitions led to establishing Mt. Mitchell State Park as well as the Pisgah National Forest. The tourism industry was starting to flourish in the area too which reinforced this preservation effort. For some interesting history of logging in the

area, read the articles in the Citizen Times – "Visiting Our Past: WNC logging camp life was harsh, lively", and "Visiting our Past: WNC gave birth to forestry".

George Vanderbilt of the Vanderbilt Estate recognized the threat to the mountain forests of over logging. In 1895 he brought German forester Carl Schenck to Biltmore to establish the first forestry school in the United States, using Biltmore's extensive forests as a laboratory. Rafael Guastavino who also worked for Vanderbilt purchased 1100 acres in the Black Mountain area between 1894 and 1905. The Settings is located on about half that tract. There is little record of any major logging having been done before that time in our area.

Today our community is heavily wooded with a dense overstory of natural upland hardwoods, primarily Chestnut Oak, Red Maple, Black Gum, Table Mountain Pine, Yellow Poplar, Sourwood, and Black Birch. The understory is dominated by Mountain Laurel and Rhododendron. Many of the trees are quite old. For instance, a 24" diameter white pine, and we have quite a few of that size, are well over a hundred years old! The Settings forest offers many benefits to us which we can appreciate including:

Aesthetic beauty – let's face it, The Settings is a forested setting and that's why many of us decided to live here.

Wildlife – Animals enjoy a diversity of forest types. Young/old, dense/sparse, living/dead, varying species

Water Quality – Trees help to reduce erosion by the roots helping to hold the soil in place. The tree canopy and leaf litter help to soften the blow of rain droplets.

Noise reduction – Trees help to dampen noise as it travels. This can be noticed in the different seasons as leaves are on in the summer and off in the winter.

Air Quality – Trees are great at carbon sequestration, where carbon dioxide is taken up and stored as carbon biomass. But this is done by all trees and other plants. Typically, the younger, faster growing trees sequester more carbon than the slower growing older trees.

For more information on our forests, check the NC Forest Service website.

Contributing editor – Justin Query, Wildfire Mitigation Forester, NC Forest Service
Other sources – Wikipedia, NCPEDIA

Enjoy the peace and tranquility of our pond paths! The flowers on the upper path are blooming!



BOOK CLUB

Because of coronavirus restrictions, Book Club was suspended in the Spring. The Book Club has resumed meetings and since many folks are not traveling, meetings will be held in the summer. The meetings are on the lower level patio at the Clubhouse with social distancing and masks. If rainy, the meeting is held in the lower level meeting room. Here are the dates.

July 22 - *We were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter

August 19 - *The weight of a Piano* by Chris Cander

ARE YOU IN THE DIRECTORY?

Currently 27 families are listed in the directory on The Settings of Black Mountain website. If you are not registered and wish to do so, you can locate the Directory under the Community tab of the Dashboard. Click on Directory to Opt-In. Follow the directions provided. Your information will only appear if you provide it. You may add, remove or update the information at any time

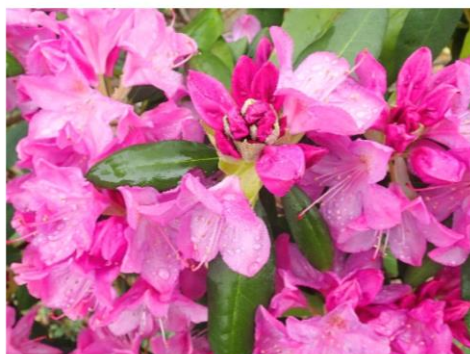
Our Beautiful Neighborhood!

Flowers and Wildlife in The Settings





Trillium



Rhododendron

Special thanks to all our contributing photographers: Cindy High, Brenda Steele-Herholdt, Rhonda Gramley, Bill Hattori, Jim Barber



Squaw Root



Flame Azalea



Sweet White Violet



Mountain Laurel

Blood Root



Dwarf Crested Iris

Happy Fourth of July!



Remember there will be no Fourth of July social event at The Settings