



# SKI MOUNTAIN ACRES

*"The Mountains are calling ...and I must go." John Muir*

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

## A Message from the President

Spring is finally here in Blowing Rock after quite an eventful winter of snow and ice. According to the local weather forecast center, RaysWeather.com, Boone received roughly 26 inches of snow and higher elevations, such as Ski Mountain Acres, likely saw significantly larger totals.



We are certainly looking forward to warmer weather, blooming flowers, birds chirping and Carolina blue skies! It is a great time to be in the Mountains.

## Spring Clean Up

Spring clean-up of drainage areas and annual limbs trimming will begin soon. For everyone's safety, please trim back bushes, trees, or other landscaping off the road. Since our roads are very narrow, we need to make sure there is good visibility, especially when maneuvering around the tight turns and meeting on-coming traffic.

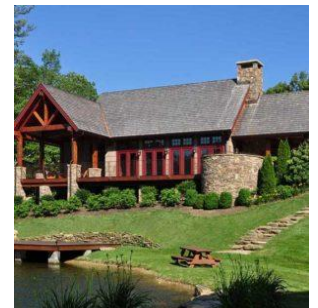
Now is also a good time for everyone to check for debris or leaves that have collected along sides of driveways or areas that will impede the flow of

water into our drainage areas. The next couple of months can bring a lot of rain which could undercut and erode our roads if water is not able to flow properly.

## Annual POA Meeting

The Ski Mountain Acres annual POA Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, July 11, 2021 at 2:00 pm** at the Firethorn Clubhouse. Please attend if you are able. We have a wonderful neighborhood and value the involvement of our property owners. The meeting will last about an hour and we are hopeful to be able to enjoy some social time afterward this year.

The clubhouse at Firethorn also enables us to meet outdoors under covered shelter if we are unable to meet indoors.



As a reminder, annual POA dues will always be due by the end of July but can be paid immediately following the meeting.

More information to follow soon.

## Open POA Board Seats

There will be two open board spots this year: Vice President and a Member at Large. You do not have to be a fulltime resident to serve on the POA board. The only requirement is that you are a home or landowner. If you are interested, please contact Holly Helmig before June 15, 2021.

## Directory – Map Updates

Real estate activity on the mountain, and Blowing Rock in general, has been very busy. We are in the process of updating the POA directory and map and will have these items available at annual meeting in July.

To be cognizant of releasing our property owners' personal identifiable information (such as cell phone numbers or email addresses), before distributing the POA directory, we are asking property owners to OPT IN to having this information published.

If you do not OPT IN, then the default information that will be published in the POA directory will only be what is shown on the Watauga County GIS website (property owner name, lot number, address).

In this technological day and age, it is extremely important that we all practice safe online security measures when dealing with personal identifiable information. The last thing any one of us needs is to be part of an information breach and someone becomes a victim of identity theft.

To update any information or to OPT IN to publishing personal information, click [here](#) to send an email to the Board Secretary.

## Ski Mountain Acres New Website

The Board has been working on a website for our neighborhood, but we need your help as to what types of information you would like to see. You can check out us out online at:

[www.SkiMountainAcres.com](http://www.SkiMountainAcres.com).

We are currently looking for neighborhood pictures and stories.

## Native Wildlife

With warmer weather heading our way, local wildlife, mainly deer, turkey, and black bear, will be more visible as they search for food.

**Become Bear Wise:** According to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's website, "bear sightings throughout the state are increasingly common as

more people move into and near bear habitat. While bears are not inherently dangerous and are rarely aggressive toward people,

biologists urge people to be cautious and follow the six BearWise Basics to reduce potential conflicts and live responsibly with black bears."



1. Never feed a bear. Feeding bears trains them to approach homes and people for more food. Bears are particularly attracted to human garbage, pet food and other human-associated foods, like bird seed. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close, so do not risk your safety or theirs.
2. Secure food, garbage, and recycling. Place bags of trash inside cans stored in a garage, sheds, or other secure area; or use garbage cans or trash containers with a secure latching system or that are bear resistant. Place trash outside as late as possible, on trash pick-up days – not the night before.
3. Remove bird feeders when bears are active. Birdseed and other grains have high calorie content making them very attractive to bears.
4. Never leave pet food outdoors.
5. Grills: After you use an outdoor grill, clean it thoroughly and make sure that all grease and fat is removed.
6. Alert neighbors to bear activity. See bears in the area or evidence of bear activity? Tell your neighbors and share info on how to avoid bear conflicts. Bears have adapted to living near people; now it is up to us to adapt to living near bears.

For more information on native NC wildlife, please visit the NC Wildlife Resources Commission website at: <https://www.ncwildlife.org>.