



## Calendar of Events

### June 1

**Celebrate Flat Rock**, 12pm-4pm, Flat Rock Village Hall, free ice cream & music.

**A Tribute to the Music of Sting and the Police**, Thur-Sat, 8pm, Flat Rock Playhouse Downtown.

**Summer Music in Flat Rock**, 6pm, Little Rainbow Row's back deck (Greenville Hwy & West Blue Ridge Rd). Free.

### June 1-2

**16th Annual Black Mountain Arts & Crafts Show**, The Olde Depot, 207 Sutton Ave, Black Mountain

### June 7, 14, 21, 28

**15th Annual Music on Main Street Concert Series & Classic Car Show**, 7pm, Main St., Hendersonville. Free. Bring a chair.

### June 8

**PF Social Committee Hike**, Mountain Bridge Wilderness, SC. Meet at the BIT House at 8:25am. Group leaves promptly at 8:30am. Bring lunch for picnic afterwards and \$2/person for use of Mountain Bridge trails.

### June 14-15

**20th Blue Ridge BBQ & Music Festival**, Fri 11am-11pm, Sat 10am-11pm, Harmon Field, Tryon. Cook teams from across the U.S., live music, kids park, craft fair.

### June 15

**Downtown Sidewalk Antique & Vintage Show**, 9am-5pm, Main St, Hendersonville

### June 20

**Downtown Rhythm & Brews Concert Series**, 6pm, Azalea Parking lot, King St, Hendersonville. Free

## Birthdays

**June 3:** Debbie Hayden

**June 8:** Mickey Pickler

**June 19:** Renee Kidwell

**June 19:** Jim Welch

## Candidates for POA Board

Three Pinnacle Falls property owners have submitted their names for election to the Property Owners Association (POA) board.

Carol Fife, Gayden Gauthier, and Grady Nance will be on the ballot, which is expected to be mailed to all property owners soon. Only two positions will be open once current Chairman Ralph Johns and Vice Chairman Abe Shor rotate off the board in July. All property owners in good standing

will vote for two of the three nominees to replace Johns and Shor. Property owners not planning to attend the July 20 Annual Meeting will vote by absentee ballot.

As part of the application process, each nominee was asked to submit their biography as well as answers to five questions. See each nominees' submission on pages 4-5.

*continued page 4*

## Neighbors kick off summer with cookouts

Summer is here and the grillin' has begun. The new clubhouse grill has now been broken in with two Social Committee cookouts. The first cookout was held Saturday, May 4; the second was held Memorial Day, May 27.

### May 4 Cookout:



(l-r): Renee Kidwell, Andy Kinigson, Gayden Gauthier, & Grady Nance



(l-r): Ed Graham and Ed Carlson



(l-r): Mickey Pickler, George Rash, Linda Mitchell, & Ed Graham

### Memorial Day Cookout:



Mike Schaeffer, Ron Hertwig, and Jim Blackburn



Delaney Blackburn (left) with mom Shawn.



Audrey Snyder, Grady Nance, & Kathleen Nance

## New book features essay by Ceille Baird Welch

Ceille Welch (Lot 135) is among several nationally and regionally recognized writers to contribute to a new book titled, *State of the Heart: South Carolina Writers on the Places They Love*.

Edited by Aida Rogers, with the foreword by Pat Conroy, the book includes short essays on the South Carolina places that the writers cherish, and provides multifaceted historical and personal views of the Palmetto State.



*continued page 2*

# Welch makes use of nature background; shares wildflower knowledge

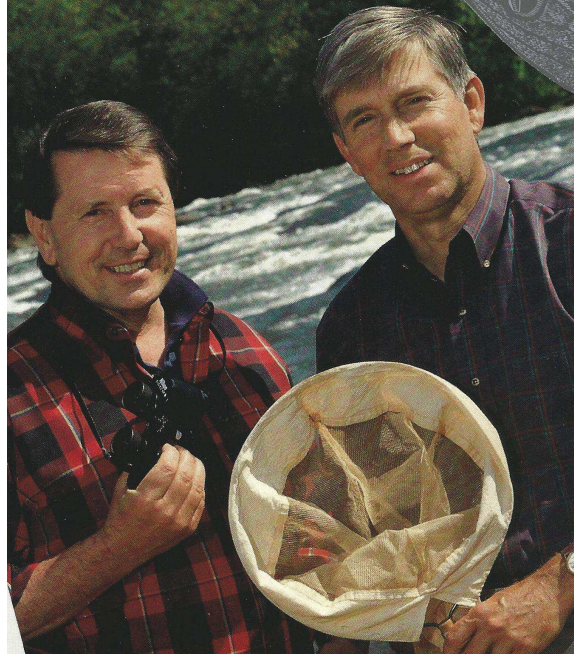
In addition to being our resident singer, songwriter, and guitarist, Jim Welch (Lot 135) is also a nationally renowned nature expert.

Jim worked on the NatureScene series for public television hosting nature walks in all 50 states and several foreign countries, visiting hundreds of national parks, national forests, and nature preserves. As a result, he has a wealth of knowledge about nature, and in particular, the Pinnacle Falls plants and flowers.

According to Jim, "I have been hiking these woods in springtime every year since 1982 and this, I believe, is the best wildflower season I have ever seen. I think we will have a colorful summer."

Jim adds that "the beauty of the forest, streams, mountains, and valleys of Pinnacle Falls ranks right up there with the best of them."

Jim began his television career at KONA-TV in Honolulu, Hawaii as a news reporter-photographer in 1964. In 1967, he left Hawaii and joined the news team at WIS-TV in Columbia, SC and served as a reporter and news anchor until 1974. Jim then became news director and later program director at the SCETV Network, where he produced, wrote,



**Jim Welch (left) and Rudy Mancke during their time as co-hosts of NatureScene. Their TV partnership won them praise from viewers and TV critics nationwide and a host of awards, including the National Wildlife Federation's prestigious Special Achievement Award in 1987.**

and hosted a variety of news and public affairs programming.

He hosted the nationally televised series NatureScene with naturalist Rudy Mancke.

NatureScene was a series of 250 half-hour shows produced on location in all 50 states, the Canadian provinces, and several foreign countries.

Jim was born and raised on a Vermont dairy farm and knew from age 12, following a television appearance on a CBS quiz show in New York City, that he wanted to be on television and not on a farm. After graduating from Alan Hancock College in Santa Maria, CA, he attended the University of Miami, UCLA, and the University of Hawaii, and went on to serve three years in the Army as a writer. In 1998, Jim was awarded a Doctor of Science degree from Lander University. His first poem, *My Prayer*, based on his love of the outdoors, has been published in nature magazines, newspapers, and periodicals.

For those of us not familiar with the wildflowers in our area, Jim has provided a wildflower guide (see page 3) with photos and descriptions of the wildflowers he's come across in our woods. The photos were taken in early May in the wooded lots between Cabin Creek and Juniper Berry Lane.

## Ceille Baird Welch.....from pg 1



Ceille's essay, titled "A Snapshot of My Mother at the Dock Street," recalls the magic of her first theater experience.

Ceille knew she wanted to be a writer when she was only six years old, but life initially led her down other paths. She became a student, wife, mother, and professional counselor. She turned to her writing only when she could sneak it in.

Ceille is now an award-winning playwright, poet, and a short fiction writer. She holds two academic degrees from the University of South Carolina, and a Doctor of Arts degree from Lander University. You can find her poetry in a number of southern poetry anthologies, and her complete works are housed in the South Carolina Poetry

Archives at the James B. Duke Library at Furman University.

In 2010, Ceille and her husband, Jim Welch, were named Literary Residents for The Richland County Public Libraries in Columbia, SC, and have been awarded the Lucy Hampton Bostick Award for significant literary achievement from Richland County's Friends of the Library. Ceille and Jim have two children, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

## PF Classifieds

**Want to sell your lot or have other items to sell?**  
Your Pinnacle Falls neighbors may be interested in buying. Send your name, contact info, lot number or item description, and sale price (optional) to the *PF Gazette* for free inclusion in our new Classifieds section. You'll have a built-in target audience and possibly a faster sale.

Send your pertinent info to: [contactynf@gmail.com](mailto:contactynf@gmail.com).



# Jim Welch's Local Wildflower Guide



**Horse Sugar:** A shrub or small tree that flowers before the leaves appear. The compact clusters of small fragrant creamy colored flowers, borne in profusion along the branches, are quite showy in the early spring woods. I have several small shrubs flowering in front of our cabin on Juniper Berry Lane.

The roots can be used as a dye. Also known as Sweet Leaf. Horses do like to eat it.



**Solomon's Seal:** I found this plant growing along the edge of Pinnacle Falls Lane at the edge of Lot 135. It is a native perennial and may reach two to three feet in length. The flowers are found in small clusters along the stem and are about 1/2 inch long. Found in

deciduous woods and clearings throughout North Carolina.



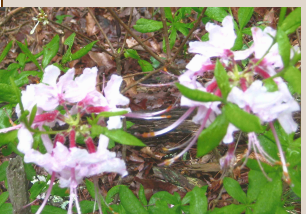
**Sweet Shrub:** This native shrub has opposite deciduous leaves that vary in color and texture. The dark burgundy colored flowers are an inch or more broad and have a spicy fragrance. The seeds are poisonous. The shrub is found in

large stands at the margins of deciduous mountain woodlands.



**Flame Azalea:** Breathtakingly beautiful native shrubs with large flowers in varying shades of orange or yellow. The plants add brilliant splashes of color on forest margins of the Appalachian mountains and the Blue Ridge.

Look for them in May and June along Pinnacle Falls Lane and Juniper Berry Lane.



**Pinxter-Flower:** Found throughout the woods and walkways of Pinnacle Falls. The almost odorless flowers, about one-inch across, usually appear on the shrubs before the thin elliptic leaves. A northeastern species, these plants are relatively frequent, but widely

scattered.



**Dwarf Iris:** A native of the Middle Atlantic region and quite often seen in the open rocky woods at Pinnacle Falls. Lavender blue or purple flowers open in April and May and although small with stems only 3-4 inches long, they provide vibrant colors in scattered

locations.



**Large Flowered Trillium:** The flower of this striking native perennial always attracts me on my visits deep in the rich woods along Cabin Creek or on the slopes of Huckleberry Ridge. The firm, white petals may be up to 2 inches long and turn pink as they age. The

plants are 12-24 inches tall.



**Silver Bell:** Native to the woodlands of the southeastern and southern states, this tree grows from 20 to 40 feet tall. The white bell-shaped flowers are about one-inch long and are borne in clusters of two to five along the branches.

There are several small to medium-sized trees along Pinnacle Falls Lane and Juniper Berry Lane.



**Pink Lady's Slipper or Moccasin Flower.** Found in the spring in dry or moist woods, usually under oaks or pines. The one to two-inch long flowers are hollow-pouch-shaped, cleft in the center, and often a deep rosy pink in color. I have seen large groups of 20 or more of these orchids scattered about the woods on both sides of Huckleberry Lane.



**Jack-In-The-Pulpit.** This is a common plant widespread in North America, but I have only spotted a few on my saunters along Cabin Creek. This very unusual plant, also known as Indian Turnip, has a flower with a tube and a hood that arches over the jack. I found this young plant among the ferns and Mountain Doghobble on the eastern side of Cabin Creek between Pinnacle Falls Lane and Huckleberry

Lane.

# Board Candidates.....from page 1



**Carol Fife**

**1) What do you regard as the most important issues facing the Pinnacle Falls community in the next three years?**

Since our developer still has 66 lots to sell, I think this presents some unknown challenges in the future. Will Mr. Amick continue to pay fees for these lots? If for any reason, Mr. Amick is not able to pay these fees, can we sustain the quality of upkeep we have established with just the fees from our existing owners? And, what would this revised plan look like? In several years, we could be faced with more road repair. We currently have a good reserve fund, but substantial road problems in the future could take a heavy toll on this fund. Can we increase our reserves in anticipation of a substantial repair bill in years to come?

**2) What prior experience outside Pinnacle Falls would have prepared you to effectively serve?**

- I served on the Board of Directors for the Tampa Food Bank for several years.
- I was married to a minister for 38 years.
- After I retired, I volunteered at the Judeo Christian Clinic in Tampa for 2 years. This is a clinic that provides medical services for the working poor. In addition to the office work I did, I also served on the committee for the annual fundraiser. This one dinner was the largest fund raiser of the year - raising over \$125,000 in one night.
- I had multiple positions during my professional life, but the one that probably was most helpful was Logistics Manager.

**3) What involvement have you had to date in the Pinnacle Falls community?**

I have served on the following committees: finance, trails, and social.

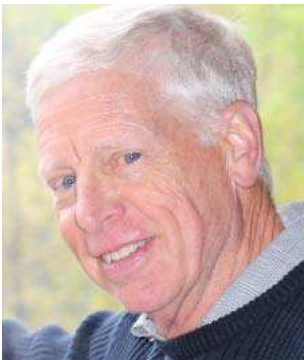
**4) What percentage of your time do you anticipate spending at Pinnacle Falls in the next three years?**

Since this is my retirement home, I will live here full time and do not expect to move for a very long time.

**5) What special skills would you bring to the Board?**

None that I can think of.

□□□



**Gayden Gauthier**

Janell & I moved here permanently in July 2012 and are now full time residents. Listed below are my responses to the five questions listed in the April issue of the "Pinnacle Falls Gazette".

**1) What do you regard as the most important issues facing the Pinnacle Falls community in the next three years?**

I think the most important issue we face as a community is how we continue to grow. There have been few lot sales in the last two years and we need to do a better job of finding potential buyers especially with the news of Bill Amick's recent illness. We also have several lots which have been sold, but very little building activity. Growth can help to solve many potential problems due to reduced income into the POA fund.

**2) What prior experience outside Pinnacle Falls would have prepared you to effectively serve?**

I have served as a member of our former church's finance committee for twelve years and I currently work as a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch. I also held several positions of leadership in our local council of the Boy Scouts of America in Maryland, most recently as District Chairman of the largest district in the Council.

**3) What involvement have you had to date in the Pinnacle Falls community?**

I currently serve as co-chair of the Pinnacle Falls Social Committee, along with Carol Fife, and I just recently joined the finance committee.

**4) What percentage of your time do you anticipate spending at Pinnacle Falls in the next three years?**

We are now full time residents so we are here 100% of the time except for business trips to Maryland every 6-8 weeks.

**5) What special skills would you bring to the Board?**

I have good communication skills and financial skills. I can usually be found walking the trails, swimming in the pool, or just walking around the neighborhood greeting fellow neighbors. I tend to be well organized when given the time to do so. I look forward to helping Pinnacle Falls thrive and grow.

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# Board Candidates.....from page 4



Pinnacle Falls is my full time home and will be until I'm old and gray. I want to preserve the good development that exists and improve it where practical. I love people. I love nature and beauty. Pinnacle Falls has both. I know that I can be very helpful on the POA board and to the POA members.

Some of the basics on my background. 62 years old, recently retired. 6 years of college (University of Michigan Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering magna cum laude, Master of Business Administration). 38 years of working (more on that later). Married 40 years, three grown kids and a grandson, raised 3 wonderful children (Kathleen gets the credit for them) and 11 seasons of managing and coaching youth soccer teams. I have a lot of people and business experience, knowledge and skills.

My responses to the questions that each board candidate has been asked to address are below.

## **Grady Nance**

### ***1) What do you regard as the most important issues facing the Pinnacle Falls community in the next three years?***

There are many items important to Pinnacle Falls. I believe the most important items are: Maintenance of safety, security, and infrastructure. Pinnacle Falls has done well to date and must continue to do well. Without these, the community cannot thrive. Developing the requirements, contracting and managing contracts are important parts of this process. Maintenance of adequate financial resources, ideally without increases in association fees. It takes money spent wisely to maintain Pinnacle Falls as a great place to live. Adequate financial reserves need to be planned for the large future maintenance items with a prudent contingency for the unexpected. Determining the right level of reserves is important. Continuation of the spirit of community and belonging in Pinnacle Falls for all (full time, part time and future residents-current and future lot owners). I moved full time to Pinnacle Falls in January and have felt very welcome. Neighbors have checked on my home when I've been gone. I have neighbors that I trust. There are social activities that I've enjoyed. These are some of the things that make a neighborhood a good community, which I wish to foster. Good stewardship of the nature and beauty within Pinnacle Falls and the ability for all to enjoy. Our development reminds me of a state park. We have many different ecosystems including: streams and stream banks, mountain sides with easterly, southern and westerly slopes with various mixes of deciduous and coniferous trees, mountain laurel and rhododendron thickets, meadows, a pond, and meadows-forest interfaces. We need to continue to be good stewards. Maintaining good relations within Zirconia community and local government. We rely on many outside services (police, fire, water) and want to be a high priority for them. Maintaining good 2-way communication between the board and all POA members.

### ***2) What prior experience outside Pinnacle Falls would have prepared you to effectively serve?***

My work experience is very broad and includes substantial experience in planning, managing people, managing contracts, developing and negotiating contracts, business mergers and acquisitions, due diligence, budgeting and financial analysis, engineering and product development, and wind energy project development. In order of most recent first:

- 7 years with DTE Energy (Michigan's largest electric utility) as manager of wind energy development that included substantial real estate activities, environmental assessments, permitting and development of good community relations, and local and state government communication. Listening to and addressing the public's and government officials' concerns in a professional demeanor while frequently being screamed at in public meetings by some anti-wind opponents was a necessary part of the job. I can bring a calm, professional assessment to contentious discussions.
- 6 years with DTE Energy Technologies (manufacture of natural gas fired cogeneration equipment) with the last 3 years as vice president of operations (engineering, product development, manufacturing, purchasing, project management and customer service).
- 18 years at McDermott International (offshore construction and manufacture of large coal fired boilers) as manager of strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions. This involved substantial business evaluations, complex due diligence, planning for post-merger integration of cultures and activities, and complex contract negotiations.
- 7 years at Ford Motor Company controllers' office as financial analyst and supervisor.
- 4 months with the US Environmental Protection Agency as automotive emission certification engineer.
- 11 seasons as soccer coach and manager of U11 (travelling recreational) through U18 (premiere) boys teams. Encouraging and providing an example of good ethics and sportsmanship is a most important part of the coach's duties. Managing expectations of players and parents is also a major part of this volunteer job.

### ***3) What involvement have you had to date in the Pinnacle Falls community?***

My home was recently completed and Kathleen and I moved full time to Pinnacle Falls on January 31 of this year. Involvement to date has been social and trail committee activities. I'm looking forward to devoting time to the needs of the POA.

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## Candidates

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### 4) What percentage of your time do you anticipate spending at Pinnacle Falls in the next three years?

I'm retired and Pinnacle Falls is my only home. Other than vacations, I will be here every day.

### 5) What special skills would you bring to the Board?

As mentioned above, people and communication skills, contracting skills, ability to analyze situations, conduct due diligence, understand complex situations, and financial expertise.

## Trails Committee installs new signs; makes bridges safer

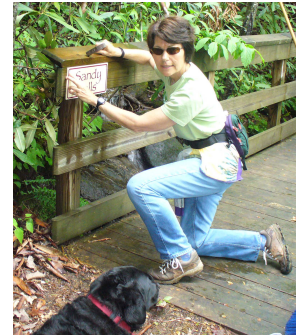
The Trails Committee has installed new waterfall signs and cleaned off a few of the bridges to make them safer.

Chairman Abe Shor, Gayden Gauthier, Grady and Kathleen Nance, Renee Kidwell, and George Rash walked the trails on Sunday, May 19 to install signs for unnamed waterfalls. One newly named waterfall is "Sandy Falls", which was named in memory of Renee's dog Sandy.

During the outing, the committee also worked on several bridges to clean up algae that made them slippery when wet.



**Members of the Trails Committee clean algae off a bridge.**



**Renee Kidwell installs the "Sandy Falls" sign as her dog Danny watches.**

## Social Committee plans waterfall hike in South Carolina

By Grady Nance

The Social Committee has set up a waterfall hike for Saturday, June 8 in Mountain Bridge Wilderness in South Carolina.

### About the Waterfalls and Hike

Jones Gap Nature Area is part of the Mountain Bridge Wilderness area in South Carolina, near Pinnacle Falls. There are two waterfall hikes that can be readily reached from the Jones Gap parking area: Jones Gap Falls and Rainbow Falls. The parking area is about a 25 minute drive from Pinnacle Falls with no dirt or gravel roads involved. There are good restrooms near the parking area, as well as nice picnic areas.

The primary hike is to Jones Gap Falls, a pretty falls about 50 feet high and worth the hike. Jones Gap Falls destination starts at the Jones Gap parking lot and is 1.1 miles one-way on Jones Gap Trail. Elevation gain is about 450 feet. The trail follows Middle Saluda River going uphill at a generally moderate ascent with many pretty views of the cascading river. The trail is wide and well marked. Many of the areas of the trail have rocks and tree roots. A few areas require fording very small streams. There is one larger stream to ford—about 10 feet across—at about one mile in. On a low water day, this is easy to ford. On a high water day, you will get your boots wet. You may wish to bring a pair of shoes for fording. The falls is on

a spur about 50 yards long at about 1.1 miles in. If it has rained hard recently, long sections of the trail may be wet and muddy. The trail is rated "moderate." Estimated hiking time is about 2.5 hours.

For those interested in a longer and more strenuous hike, the hike to Rainbow Falls can be done from the same parking lot. Rainbow Falls is a pretty falls (Cox Camp Creek) about 100 feet high and also worth the hike. To get to Rainbow Falls, start at the Jones Gap parking lot and follow Jones Gap Trail for 0.6 miles to the Rainbow Falls trailhead. Take the 1.6 mile Rainbow Falls Trail to the falls. Return back the same way—total distance is 4.4 miles with 1,200 feet of elevation gain. The Rainbow Falls trail has some sections that are steep, and includes areas with steps. As with Jones Gap Trail, there are many rocks and tree roots, and a few small streams to ford. The trail is rated "strenuous." Estimated hiking time is 3.5 hours.

### Equipment

Hiking boots are strongly recommended for both hikes. A hiking stick is not needed but I like to take one on both trails, and especially on the Rainbow Falls trail. Drinking water is a must. A snack is recommended. We can bring lunch and picnic after the completion of the hike. A fee of \$2 per person is required for use on Mountain

Bridge trails, so bring cash. The money is left in a slot—on the honor system.

### Where to Meet

We will meet at 8:25 am on Saturday, June 8 at the Believe in Tomorrow House. The carpool will leave promptly at 8:30 am as Jones Gap has very limited parking and the parking lot fills up on weekends. If the lot is full, the park ranger will not let us in until a parking spot has opened up. Also, it would be best to call and let me know if you are planning to come so you're not left behind.

### Contingencies

If it looks like bad weather or bad trail conditions (i.e. heavy rains the day before), the hike will be postponed to another day. Also, if Jones Gap parking lot is full and we can't get in, we can choose to go to either:

Wildcat Falls in Caesar Head Nature Area on Highway 11. It's about 20 minutes from Jones Gap parking area. There are two pretty falls on this trail. The hike round trip is about 1.5 miles. This trail is not rated, but I would rate it "easy" to "moderate." Or, we could go to nearby Falls Creek Falls (trailhead is five minutes from Jones Gap parking lot). The trail is steep and rugged., rated "strenuous." The falls are very pretty. This is about 2.4 miles roundtrip with a 600 foot elevation gain.