



Calendar of Events

May 2

Flat Rock Tailgate Market, 3pm-6pm, Next to Hubba Hubba Smoke House, Flat Rock. Every Thursday through October.

May 4

Pinnacle Falls Cookout, 5:30 pm, Clubhouse. Please bring a dish to share as well as anything you want to cook on the grill & your drinks.

Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale, 10 am-5pm, 1940 Spartanburg Hwy, Hendersonville

May 16

Downtown Rhythm & Brews: Concert Series, 6pm-9pm, Azalea Parking Lot, King St, Hendersonville

May 18

Saluda Arts Festival, 10am-4pm, Historic Downtown Saluda

May 25

Pinnacle Falls Group Outing: The White Squirrel Festival, Brevard . A carpool will leave the Pinnacle Falls Meadows area at 9 am.

May 25-26

20th Annual Garden Jubilee Festival, 10am-6pm, Downtown Hendersonville

May 27

Memorial Day Informal Cook-out, 5:30 pm, Clubhouse. Bring whatever you want to grill and a dish to share.

Birthdays

May 1: Ron Hertwig

May 21: Kathleen Nance

NC Forest Service officer provides 'Firewise' tips

Pinnacle Falls residents who attended the April 27 POA Board meeting now have a better understanding of how to protect their homes from wildfires.

Tony Creasman, a fire control officer with the North Carolina Forest Service, was the guest speaker at the meeting. He was invited by Linda Brett, director of Forest Management-Southern Region, of the U.S. Forest Service, and soon-to-be Pinnacle Falls resident. Creasman's presentation



Tony Creasman presents a slideshow of homes that have good and bad landscaping for fire protection.

was extremely popular among those in attendance, and although it was cut short due to time constraints of the meeting, he provided a wealth of information and tips. Below is a summary of the presentation and recommendations for Pinnacle Falls.

- North Carolina ranks #1 in the U.S. for homes inside the Wildland/Urban Interface Zone (WUI), which is defined as the area where homes and communities meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland vegetation. Wildfires that occur in the WUI can be extremely dangerous or destructive to lives and property.
- The fire departments follow a Structural Triage System, in which they are trained to assess which structures should be saved in the event of a fire. There are 3 types of structures:
 - 1) Structures that need little to no work to be saved
 - 2) Structures that need work/improvement to be saved
 - 3) Structures that are already involved, or cannot be safely defended
- Structures that have the following features will not be defended unless the fire crews feel there is a good chance of saving the home without endangering their own lives:
 - ◆ driveways that are too narrow or too steep to back into
 - ◆ overhanging limbs and/or dead or downed fuels (fallen trees, leaves, and shrubs) that line the driveway and may cause fire crews to become entrapped by the fire
 - ◆ have trees and or shrubs and bushes that are right next to the home, especially those that are highly flammable
 - ◆ on dead end roads in which fire trucks cannot turn around
 - ◆ on roads with heavy downed fuel
 - ◆ have driveways longer than 200 feet
 - ◆ have underground utility boxes close to the home or driveway (if they become overheated, they could explode)

Hanlon's alarm system comparable to military defense system

By A.J. Ball, Pinnacle Falls property manager

Editor's Note: A.J. is sharing the following email with us that he sent to property owner, Dan Hanlon.

Dan,

Our unscheduled test of your alarm system went "off" without a hitch this morning, as you are fully aware. Upon arrival at your home on Pinnacle Falls Lane, the property manager (me) promptly opened the front entry door without the disable code for the alarm system. Of course, the alarm activated causing several unseemly words to be uttered by the property manager (PM). He immediately reached for his cell phone to call for assistance to obtain the code. Of course, the cell phone did not work. Communications are always an issue in a crisis. Hurriedly looking for the house phone and now realizing that time was not on his side, additional unmentionable words were uttered. Holy crap!

The alarm was received at the remote monitoring station which created the appropriate responses. Excellent!

The alarm and monitoring company immediately notified the owner as well as the local law enforcement of an alarm event at the residence. Excellent!

A chemical agent dispersing unit arrived on the scene; a little unusual for this type unit to be the lead element in a military operation, but Terminix Pest Control could have been used to disable

any intruder if necessary. Outstanding!

PM finally got through to his support element, the unflappable Theresa Ball, and ascertained the disable code. Alarm silenced. Curse words ceased! Tension eased somewhat. Theresa is still laughing, I will devise a plan to get even with her! Stress level comes back up every time she smiles or giggles....

Owner had called PM to determine what had gone wrong and if in fact there was a problem. Of course, the PM's cell phone did not have coverage. Anxiety?!

Owner notified backup — i.e. Pinnacle Falls Ready Squad & South African Rapid Response Leader (Rod Patterson) — who immediately bolted to the residence with weapons at the ready (double-barreled blunderbust 12 gauge shotgun). Upon arrival, SGT Ready Rod determined there was no threat and immediately engaged in conversation with the PM and the chemical detachment personnel.

Simultaneously, the local law enforcement, (Henderson County Deputy Sheriff) arrived on the scene, along with Forward Air Controller (FAC), retired Air Force Colonel Ralph Johns and two K-9 attack dogs/vicious beasts! The air combat team from Norfolk Naval Air Station was canceled after it was determined that an unscheduled test of the alarm system was being conducted. Hooah! Thank God, because they would have destroyed

the whole area.

The Deputy Sheriff requested my name for his report and I assured him I was Abe Shor, the mayor of Pinnacle Falls. Where upon he popped smoke and departed the AO (area of operation). Nice guy, very timely response. Excellent!

To insure security from any invasive species of enemy insects or other unsavory creatures that might be lurking around the premises, the chemical detachment, i.e. Terminix, conducted a recon and sprayed the likely avenues of approach with the appropriate chemical agents. The real reason for this unscheduled test!

Upon termination of the exercise, all personnel popped smoke and departed the AO; the alarm system was re-activated in the event of any future intrusions, and/or unscheduled tests.

Mission accomplished. All personnel accounted for, no casualties, all equipment and weapons secured, alarm operational, and K-9 troops should receive one cookie ration each, provided by the FAC.

As a side note, the PM now has all appropriate codes posted within the confines of his combat command vehicle/pick-up truck.

I'll see you on the high ground! Embarrassed, but still on station and Charlie Mike! (continuing mission)

PF directory updated; send in your correct info

The Pinnacle Falls directory has been updated and sent out to all property owners.

Property Owner Janell Gauthier updated the directory and emailed it in April to all property owners with working email addresses. The Finance

Committee, with approval from the POA Board, asked Janell, who volunteered, to update, maintain, and distribute the directory to eliminate printing and maintenance costs. The directory will no longer be mailed to all property owners.

If you did not receive the updated

directory via email, that most likely means the POA does not have your correct email address. Please send your correct home address, home and cell phone numbers, and email address to Janell at GJ.Gauthier.12@att.net.

Pinnacle Falls Gazette

Editor: Yvette Freeman Rash
Send items for publication consideration to:
contactynf@gmail.com
Next Issue Deadline: May 20

WNC and SC have several half-day hikes to enjoy

By Kathleen Nance

When Grady and I were looking for a location to retire, one of the appeals of the western North Carolina mountains and Pinnacle Falls was the abundance of hiking trails nearby. Since moving in, we've enjoyed exploring the Pinnacle Falls trails and branching out to nearby areas such as the Mountain Bridge Wilderness area in South Carolina, Pisgah National Forest, and DuPont State Forest. As we work on gaining endurance and experience, we've discovered some excellent hikes nearby that can easily be done in less than half a day by hikers without a lot of skill.

These (Half) Day Trekking hikes are of easy to moderate difficulty (we managed them!), are about 1.5-3 miles round trip (trails are hike in/hike out), and offer the reward of a lovely waterfall. If you have guests who want a nice, but not too strenuous hike, or if you want a pleasant morning/afternoon outing, then maybe one of these would be worthwhile to check out.

Wildcat Branch Falls



Photo by Grady Nance

We discovered this hike when we had gone to hike to the falls in Jones Gap in South Carolina and the parking lot was full. So we explored this one instead. The trailhead is easily located off Geer Highway with a pull out area at a beautiful falls right next to the road. On this day, we found a couple selling boiled peanuts and knit hats.

We had stopped there once before to see the falls, but hadn't realized there was a trail that led further back to two more falls. When you are finished enjoying the 30 foot roadside falls, cross the bridge at the head of the falls and continue to follow the trail along the

river. After passing an intriguing brick fireplace, left from a Civilian Conservation Corps building, the trail wanders about a mile through hardwood and rhododendrons, past a smaller, 10 foot cascade, and then ends at the base of the third falls, a magnificent 100 foot drop of water. The flower memorial at the start of the hike is a reminder not to go clambering up to the top, although we did see some more adventurous scramblers there.

Wintergreen Falls

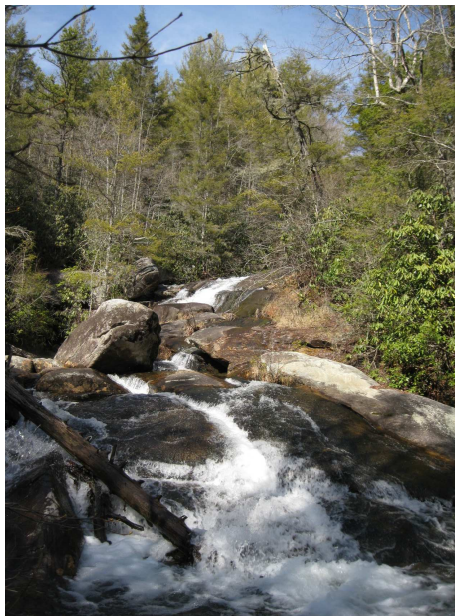


Photo by Grady Nance

Wintergreen falls is a more modest falls in DuPont State Forest, but still a pleasant end to a fairly easy hike. Most of the 1.5 miles follows an old road through large pine forests with interesting granite outcroppings. Only the last 100 yards or so, you have to navigate a narrow path through rocks and roots to reach the base of the falls. Grady scrambled up the boulders at the bottom for a better look, but I didn't manage that. I was still able to enjoy the flow of water, however, as it curved down. On the way back, we took the Sandy Trail spur, which was a nice change as it followed the river. It returned us back to the original trail. We saw no one else on this trail, so it was a nice option if you are looking for isolation.

Moore Cove Falls

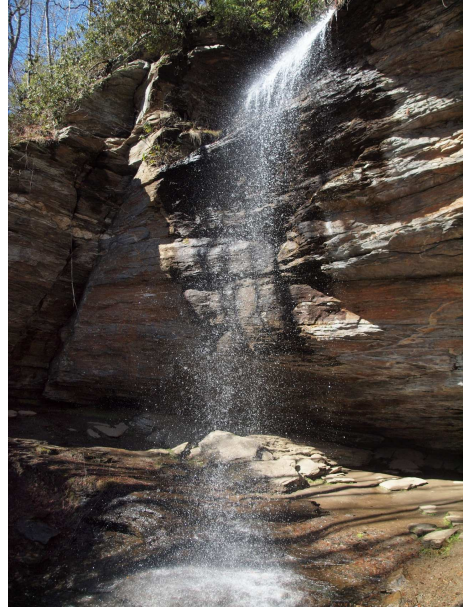


Photo by Grady Nance

We discovered this hike when we were traveling along Highway 276 in Pisgah National Forest and saw the turnout between Looking Glass Falls and Sliding Rock. The trail began with a bridge across Looking Glass Creek, and then began to climb through a fern and hardwood forest. The trail was easy to follow, despite some roots and rocks to avoid, and the elevation change gradual enough to be only moderately strenuous. The trail follows Moore Creek and crosses it on bridges a couple of times during the trek, ending at the lovely Moore Cove Falls about 0.75 miles in. There's a viewing area built, making it easy to relax and enjoy the falls. This is a popular hike, so trying it during the week, rather than a weekend, might allow more solitude.

Directions to the Falls:

Wildcat Branch Falls: Take Hwy 25 south into South Carolina. Exit at Highway 11 and take it west to Geer Highway/Hwy 276. The falls is about 5 miles from the intersection.

Wintergreen Falls: Follow published directions to the Guion Farm access off Sky Valley Rd in DuPont State Forest. The trail is across the meadows on the right.

Moore Cove Falls: Follow Highway 276 in the Pisgah National Forest.

Firewise tips

.....from page 1

- Since fire travels faster up a slope, it's best to have a 50 foot area of grass or mulch around your home. Mulch is a better ground cover than pine needles because mulch holds water better, and pine needles are extremely flammable. Gravel is also a good ground cover. Recycled tires as mulch is not recommended.
- Mountain Laurel, which is prevalent in the North Carolina mountains is one of the most flammable bushes. So are rhododendrums, cedar, holly, pine, loblolly, and hemlock. It is not recommended that anyone plant these shrubs and bushes close to their home. If you already have them planted near your home or deck, keep them trimmed very low. Do not let them grow tall enough to reach your deck, if planted beneath an open deck area.
- The Forest Service considers fallen trees in the forest as "Dead Downed Fuel" - meaning it is just fuel for any wildfires. Fallen trees should be cleaned up unless in areas where there are erosion control issues, in which case, they are good for irrigation and erosion control.

During the presentation, Creasman showed photos of various homes in western North Carolina, and Pinnacle Falls that are good examples of how to do your landscaping to reduce wildfire damage. Grady and Kathleen Nance's home on Mountain Maple Drive was cited as a good example, as well as the Mt. Pisgah guest house on Pinnacle Mountain Lane. Both were cited because they each have landscaping which includes rocks and mulch around the front, side, and/or back of the home, which would significantly slow down a fire. The Freeman-Rash home on Pinnacle Mountain Road is also a good example of a home with at least a 50 foot perimeter of grass and mulch/rocks, which is good for slowing a fire.

According to Creasman, after conducting a walk-through of Pinnacle Falls and seeing the landscaping of



Due to having a retaining wall in the front, as well as mulch and rock landscaping with no downed dead fuel or trees and shrubs immediately next to the home, Grady & Kathleen Nance's home on Mountain Maple Drive is one example of good landscaping that is "firewise."



The Freeman-Rash home is also an example of "firewise" landscaping because it has at least a 50 foot grass and mulch/rock perimeter around the house with few trees or downed dead fuels.

several homes, and the trails, and other wooded areas, our community has a rating of 84 on the Firewise Prevention program. That's high, as anything between 76-118 is considered to be a high fire danger.

There are several websites you can visit to learn more about the Firewise program, including:

- ncfirewise.org
- Firewise.org
- ces.ncsu.edu/forestry/pdf/ag/

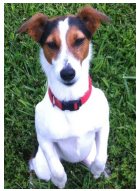
[firewise_landscaping.pdf](#)

- Or search Google or Yahoo for "firewise".

As a result of the suggestions provided by Creasman, the Architectural Review Committee (ARB) plans to conduct a review of Pinnacle Fall's current landscaping guidelines and make suggestions for revisions as necessary to comply with the Firewise program. Those suggestions will then be given to the POA Board for consideration.

Pinnacle Falls Pet Directory

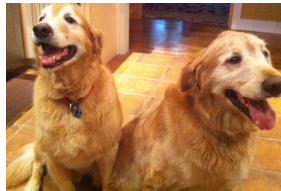
Full-Time & Part-Time Residents & Visiting Family



Chloe
Abe & Rosemarie
Shor



Trooper Blu
George & Yvette
Rash



Sam & Adam
Ron & Rhonda
Hertwig



Tig & Carly
Jim, Shawn, & Delaney
Blackburn



Simba & Aby
Rod & Jean
Patteson



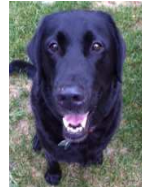
Angeline & Buddy
Carol
Fife



Ike
Ralph & Sallie
Johns



Duncan
Julie
Johns



Danny
Renee
Kidwell



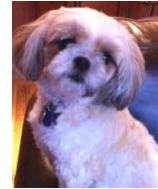
Nike
Grady & Kathleen
Nance



Jeb & Zsa Zsa
Jim & Ceille
Welch



Abigail & Mia
Dennis & Linda
Mitchell

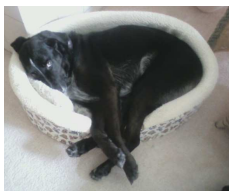


Lilly
Ed Graham &
Mickey Pickler



Bonnie, Clyde & Spats
Debbie
Hayden

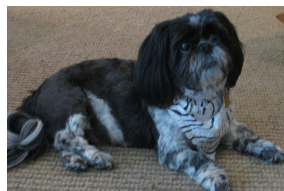
Non-Visiting Pets



Roger & Trevor
Beverly & Mike
Spreng



Oreo
Andy & Kris
Kinigson



Neighborhood Pets Outside of Pinnacle



Sophie & Tipper
Danny & Laura
Austin



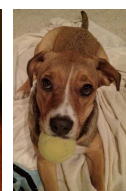
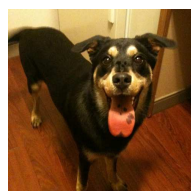
Honey Bunny
Audrey Snyder



Mia
Terri & Steven
Schiffman



Reilly
John & Carol
Tingwall



Turbo & Radar
Chris Tesauro & Courtney
Jackson