



# Deerlake Diary

## President's Message

Mike Thompson

### Dates

Thursday,  
March 30,  
9:30 a.m.      **Bocce Ball  
Resumes —  
Can It Be  
Spring?**

Friday,  
April 21,  
5-7 p.m.      **T.G.I.F.,  
Clubhouse**

Tuesday,  
April 25,  
4 p.m.      **Nat'l Park  
Historian,  
Clubhouse**

Monday,  
May 8,  
3 p.m.      **Blue Ridge  
Comm Coll  
Keyboard  
Concert,  
Clubhouse**

The DVCA First Quarterly (Q1) Meeting was held on Thursday, March 16. Resident turnout at the meeting was respectable with 19 attending at the clubhouse and 15 on Zoom. All residents are always encouraged to attend as this is another means to be informed. Two quarterly meetings remain, June and September, plus the annual meeting in December. Your attendance is always appreciated.

#### Board Member Replacement

On March 6, I informed the Board that Brent Dormann, who was just elected to the Board last December, resigned for personal reasons. Agnes Tyna, who was one of our Board nominees last year, graciously agreed to step up and serve the remainder of the three-year term. Our sincere thanks to Agnes.

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Andrew Barrett, reported that as of February 28, 2023, DVCA had a balance of \$305,260.05 in various interest-bearing accounts. Andrew reported operating expenses for February were \$7,763.75, and total year-to-date expenses are \$37,204.07, equating to 37.79% of the 2023 Operating Budget. The amount of \$12,000 was charged to the Contingency Account for payment to Morrow Insurance Agency, Inc. for property, general liability, umbrella liability, and officer & director liability insurance from Cincinnati Insurance Companies covering 1/1/23 to 1/15/24. No funds were paid from the Capital Reserve Account. Federal and state taxes were filed with no money due. Andrew also reported that 222 of the 2023 DVCA assessments have been collected. One assessment has not been paid and is considered delinquent. The condos — Quail Run and Eagle Run — have paid their first quarter user fees.

#### Committee Volunteers Make This Community Function

A special thanks to the committee chairs and members who serve this community. The time and effort they contribute to the well-being of this community is priceless. As a resident of this community, you may or may not know that the DVCA is in desperate need of volunteers. **Volunteer participation is critical to our community.** If you go

### Ongoing Clubhouse Activities

- Every Monday – Poker Game – 7-10    M, W, F – Pool season - Pool Aerobics – 10-11
- Every Tuesday – Sit & Stitch – 6:30-8:00 - First Tuesday – Bible Study – 3-4
- Every Thursday – Bocce -9:30-10:30    Every Friday – Mah-Jongg – 1-4
- Fourth Thursday – Deerlake Book Club – 1-3

to our website, [Deerlakevillage.org](http://Deerlakevillage.org), you will see openings on various committees for members and chairs. Deerlake Village has a resident base with diverse skill sets and experience from which the community could benefit. The reality is, **if we want to remain an independently managed community with reasonable HOA assessments**, we need people to get involved, and not just the same individuals who consistently step up. As Jack Christfield surmised - volunteering and being an involved "communitarian" is key to keeping our assessments low and independently managing our community.

Refer to [Deerlakevillage.org](http://Deerlakevillage.org) for updates on Committee projects and activities.

### Deerlake Diary and Directory

The Board recently decided to publish the monthly Diary on the DVCA website. The January, February, and March Diaries are already on the website. Any personally identifying information for residents has been and will be excluded – email addresses, phone numbers, and residential addresses. The Board also decided that the April Diary will be the last published paper copy mailed to residents. Going forward, the Diary will only be available on the website except for the publication and mailing of paper copies of documents to residents for the Annual Meeting.

To cement this decision, UPS on March 8 informed Diary Editor Rich Schram they will no longer print the Diary for free. The new discounted printing cost will be \$210 per month, which is not in the 2023 budget. Additionally, DVCA already pays approximately \$100 per month in postage – and not to mention the volunteer time spent folding, labeling, and preparing newsletters for distribution. Total cost to continue publishing and sending paper copies would be approximately \$3,700 per year.

This change to the Diary's distribution does not affect the annual distribution of the Directory. Paper copies of the Directory will continue to be published and distributed to residents via USPS. This year's Directory is being mailed to you with the April Diary. As residents leave Deerlake Village and new residents move in, the method of distribution of supplements to the Directory is yet to be decided by the Board. Also, the frequency of distribution of supplements has not been determined. Robert Overbeck, Directory Editor, suggested that Directory supplements could be emailed to residents via email as BCC (Blind Courtesy Copies).

The Chair of the Maintenance Committee, John McKowen, recently resigned from that committee. Brenda Bryan has agreed to take on the role of chair. We are in great hands as Brenda has a wealth of information of the maintenance needs and related financials of the Deerlake Village community. She is a past Board member and past Treasurer and presently serves on our Finance Committee. Brenda reported on three projects that will be completed this year.

The **clubhouse roof & gutters** — which are 30-plus years old — need to be replaced. Brockman Home Solutions began replacing the roof on Wednesday, March 22. Asheville Seamless Gutters will replace the gutters beginning Tuesday, April 4. From a safety perspective, residents should remain a safe distance from the clubhouse for the duration of both projects. Also, keep in mind the workers are there to replace the roof and gutters in a timely, efficient, and safe manner, so please do not interfere with or interrupt the workers.

The **lower parking lot security gate** is expected to be completed this summer or fall. Installation of the security gate is for the safety of residents and authorized visitors' parking. The security gate will also prevent drivers of unauthorized vehicles from using the parking lot. The security gate will be located several feet inside the lower parking lot entrance. Vehicles approaching the security gate from Deerlake Road will have sufficient space to prevent the vehicle from sticking out onto Deerlake Road. Brenda is working and coordinating with Duke Energy, Asheville Fence, and an electrical contractor.

The **lower parking lot reseal** will be completed this May. The reseal is an application that protects the asphalt surface for several years, preventing premature failure and replacement.

### DVCA Property & Liability Insurance

Last year, insurance for property, general liability, umbrella liability, directors' and officers' liability plus dam coverage was provided by Auto Owners Insurance at a cost of \$8,500. This year, Auto Owners denied us coverage. Additionally, the state of North Carolina (NC) reclassified the majority of dams in NC as high hazard due to the many dam failures that have occurred. The Finance Committee reached out to several insurance companies. One company was found that would cover property, general liability, umbrella liability, and directors' and officers' liability

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## **(President’s Message, continued)**

but not the dam liability. Only one insurance company was willing to cover the dam for liability. Insurance coverage for property, general liability, umbrella liability, directors’ and officers’ liability are provided by Cincinnati Insurance Companies with a premium cost of \$12,000. Insurance coverage for dam liability is provided by Johnson & Johnson through the Hanover Group at a premium cost of \$23,815.

Total insurance cost for 2023 amounts to \$35,815, compared to \$8,500 in 2022, an increase of \$27,315. The insurance costs are covered for 2023 with \$12,000 from the contingency account and \$23,815 from the operating budget. This creates a shortage of \$9,815 in the operating budget, which will have to be made up next year, not to mention the premium for insurance coverage for 2024. The Board is creating a team to find ways to cut 2024’s premium costs. Examples include increasing the current deductible and continuing to search for less expensive insurance providers.

(Note: Straus Park dam liability insurance is \$30,000 with \$1 million liability coverage; DVCA pays \$23,815 with \$2 million liability coverage.)

### **Covenants & By-Law Voting Results**

At the December 2022 annual meeting, John Brown, then DVCA President, announced that the 2022 Board decided during a special meeting to withdraw the count of the amendment vote due to confusion regarding the format of the ballot. The ballot included amendments to DVCA By-Law, Article IV, Member Meetings and Voting, Sections 4.1 and 4.2, and DVCA Covenant, Article VI, Use Restrictions, Section 14, Nuisances. Withdrawal was primarily due to the absence of a legally required signature line for the DVCA Qualified Voting Member (QVM) on the amendment ballot. The 2022 Board recommended that the 2023 Board resend the amendment ballot with a signature line for voting in 2023.

At the January 2023 Board work session, the Board decided to send the revised amendment ballot to residents. The revised amendment ballots were sent to 223 residents in February for a vote by the resident QVM to be returned to the DVCA by March 1, 2023. Amendment ballots received by DVCA were counted and confirmed by Donna Raspa and Andrew Barrett. Andrew reported that out of the 223 amendment ballots sent, a total of 124 ballots were received. According to DVCA By-Law, Article IV, Section 4.13, Majority Defined, a ‘majority’ shall mean those votes totaling more than fifty percent (50%) of the QVMs or of the Directors.

For the amendments to pass, a total of 112 yes votes were needed for each amendment. Amendment - 4.1 received 123 yes votes, and 1 resident did not vote on this amendment; Amendment - 4.2 received 118 yes votes and 5 no votes; and the Amendment - Nuisance received 120 yes votes and 4 no votes. All three amendments passed as they each received more than the fifty percent of the vote required.

### **DVCA Leasing Rules**

Please be aware that, if you are a homeowner who rents out your property, there is a specific task that needs to be completed. The reference below is from the DVCA Covenants. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to inform the Secretary of the DVCA, in writing, prior to renting, of the names of the tenants. Additionally, the homeowner must inform the Secretary who will have use of the amenities of Deerlake Village, i.e., clarify if you as the owner will retain the right to use the amenities or if you will transfer that right to the tenants.

### **ARTICLE VI — USE RESTRICTIONS**

**Section 27 — Leasing or Renting** A lot owner may lease or rent the family residence owned by such Owner; provided, however, that the tenant or lessee shall be bound by all covenants and restrictions contained herein. Prior to the rental period commencing, and for the convenience, safety, and security of all concerned, the Owner is required to notify the Secretary of the Association of the name(s) of the tenants or lessees. All leases shall have a minimum term of six (6) months. At no time may a lot owner lease or rent a portion of the family dwelling unit unless the entire family dwelling unit is leased or rented. Every lessee or tenant shall in all respects be subject to the terms and conditions of this Declaration, the Bylaws, and the Rules and Regulations adopted hereunder. In the event of noncompliance by the tenant or his/her guests, all costs associated therewith, including fines and legal fees, will be assessed against the owner and the owner's property.

### **A Closing Wish**

I am writing this message on a sunny first day of spring. I hope that all residents enjoy the season as our gardens grow and bloom, and winter is officially behind us.

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# Committee Updates

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## Emergency Action Plan, Phil Davis

After several years of work by many here in Deerlake Village, the NC Department of Environmental Quality, Dam Safety Office, recently approved our Emergency Action Plan (EAP), professionally prepared and submitted by Garner Engineering. As a reminder, our dam, like 46 others here in Transylvania County, is listed by the State as a “high hazard dam.” This is not because of any defect or threat but because of the risk to residences and structures downstream along Lambo Creek should there be a failure. Therefore, we are required to have an EAP in case there is an unusual or emergency event. This document outlines the actions necessary under three different event levels:

- Level 3 GREEN – Unusual Event, slowly developing.
- Level 2 YELLOW – Emergency Event, potential dam failure situation rapidly developing.
- Level 1 RED – Urgent!! Emergency Event, dam failure imminent or is in progress.

For each of these levels, the EAP defines the responsibilities, actions and procedures of personnel and agencies to notify the public and especially those in the downstream “inundation zone.”

Over the next few weeks your EAP Committee will be conducting the following tasks:

- Meet with the Transylvania County Emergency Services Director, Kevin Shook, and others from the county and city preparedness offices to discuss our plan in detail.

- Meet with Deerlake residents from the inundation zone to discuss the EAP actions and notification steps. This meeting will be open to all DVCA residents as well as other inundation zone residents.

- Conduct an emergency practice “table-top” exercise with involved residents and preparedness officials to go through the action steps and roles in an informal and low-stress environment.

Copies of portions of the EAP (it is over 80 pages including large maps) will be posted to the DVCA website and a complete printed copy will be placed in the clubhouse armoire for residents to review.

To make it easier to communicate in case of an emergency, the latest copy of the DVCA Directory shows those addresses in the **State-identified “inundation zone” as underlined**. It is very important that the contact information of the 30 Deerlake residences along Sheffield Place and lower Cambridge Drive be maintained as current as possible. There are also approximately 150 residences and businesses downstream of Deerlake Village along Lambo Creek all the way to the French Broad River. As owners of the dam, it is our responsibility to maintain the contact list for all these structures in the inundation zone and we will be required by the Dam Safety Office to update this list annually by March. For that reason, **The EAP Committee needs some administrative assistance in this task**. If you would like to serve your community and promote the safety of your neighbors at the same time, please call Bob Williams, EAP Committee Chair, at 828-966-5584 (home) or 828-361-3595 (cell) to volunteer to help.



**(Committee Updates, continued)**

**Update on Deerlake Conservation Easement Tree Removal Project, Jack Christfield**

**Dead & dying trees were removed from the boat livery area for safety**

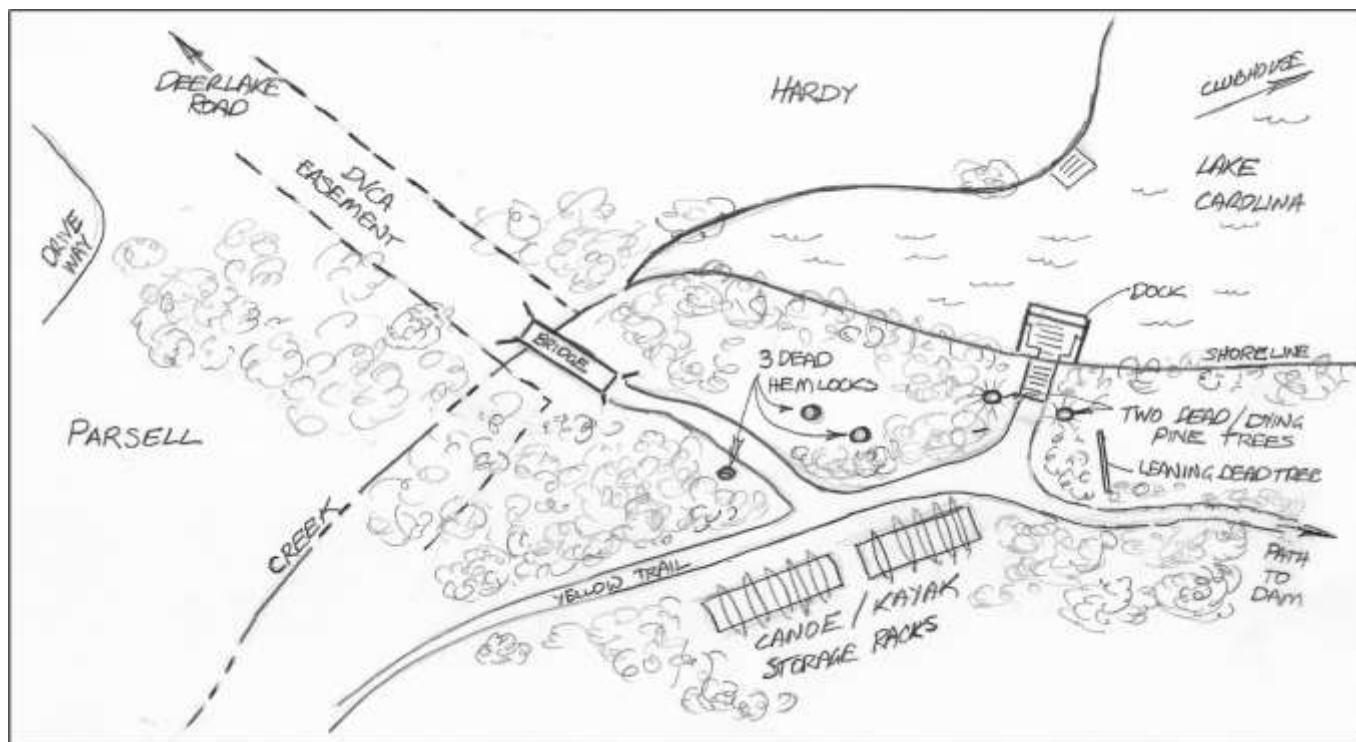
Those of you who walk the trails in the Conservation Easement have probably noticed the changes at the boat livery area. Last fall, the Lake Management Committee identified 3 large dead trees adjacent to the boat livery and dock. (Please see the project diagram below.)

After consulting with an arborist, it was determined that two additional leaning trees on either side of the dock were infested with beetles, dying, and posing a risk to anyone using the dock.

While the board does not take lightly the action of removing trees that contribute to our enjoyment of the

Deerlake community, it is bound to act when a tree is dead or diseased beyond saving, and poses a threat to personal safety and property damage.

In this case, some of the trees had already dropped large limbs in a heavily used area of the Conservation Easement, so the board approved the removal of the five trees. The work was completed at the end of last month after a great deal of labor by the Lake Management Committee, to prepare room for the felled branches and trunks and protect the stream from damage. The tree trunk sections were left in the area lining the trail. This is consistent with Conservation Easement practices that leave downed trees and limbs in place to decay naturally and nourish the habitat of the area. One other consideration was that the area is difficult to access due to the adjacent homeowner properties, thereby making the trunk removal prohibitive in terms of cost and damage to their property.



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(Committee Updates, continued)

## Landscape Review Committee, Susan Toscani

### The Landscape Review Committee needs a new chairperson..... and volunteers!

The Landscape Review Committee is on the hunt for a new chairperson to help shepherd a busy and fun committee that is vital to the Deerlake community. Responsibilities include reviewing and approving applications concerning tree removal/planting/major pruning; landscape modification for existing homes; modifications to driveway surfaces; plans for landscape structures. Site visits are usually twice a month, by appointment with the homeowner. Additionally, the committee works with the Architectural Review Committee in reviewing and approving new home construction landscaping. The chairperson also prepares quarterly reports and the annual LRC budget. For more information, please see the LRC Charter on the Deerlake website, or contact Susan Toscani, Board liaison to the Landscape Review Committee with any questions and/or interest.



## Landscape Review Committee, Sue Jones

Well, Mother Nature has once again shown herself to be in charge. Just a reminder not to set out seedlings, garden plants, etc. before end of April. If you do so, be prepared to cover them or bring them inside if cold temperatures return.

You can make preparations for the annual return of our hummingbirds; just remember, our bears are fully active now. If you like your feeder and want to keep it from being damaged, bring it in every evening. You can then enjoy seeing the hummers for the entire summer and fall.

As a constant reminder, the LRC makes visits twice a month, first and third Wednesdays. If you file for an LRC visit, be advised **you must be present** during our visit. These visits are generally short, so your submitted form should be fairly self-explanatory.

As I am stepping down as chair, I would like to thank all members of the committee who have been available for resident visits, meetings, etc. Also a big thanks to Brenda Brian for fertilizing our beautiful hydrangeas in front of the Clubhouse.



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**(Committee Updates, continued)**

**Community Activities Committee, Carol Weinhofer**

On April 25, 4:00 p.m., we look forward to a presentation on the National Park Service history throughout the southeast region of the U.S., given by Deerlake resident William Hunter. William, NPS regional historian, will provide an overview of the Parks in the region; introduce the Park history program; and then share updates on the important NPS initiatives and projects, including several interesting case studies. The presentation will highlight the challenges and opportunities facing the NPS at this critical moment in our nation's history. Please come and share your enthusiasm for our regional forests with Bill.



Looking ahead to May 8, we will again hear Stephen Zvengrowski's Blue Ridge Community College keyboard students in concert along with two very special additions. See the May digital Diary for details.



**Maintenance Committee, Brenda Bryan**

**Help Needed — 2 Levels**

**Level 1:** Join as a Maintenance Committee member. Duties would include monitoring the clubhouse weekly on a rotating schedule and making small repairs as needed around the clubhouse. Attend meetings when required.

**Level 2:** Be a *Maintenance Committee Friend*. Be willing to help occasionally but not necessarily be on the committee or attend meetings.



Contact Brenda Bryan at 828-290-4004 or email address in directory.

**Community Relations, Brent Dormann**

We had one concern brought forward this month. A cargo trailer was parked in a resident's driveway for multiple days. This has been resolved.



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## (Committee Updates, continued)

### Welcome Committee, Bob Agnew

The Welcome Committee hopes you'll join us in welcoming **Joel and Judi Farlow** to the Meadows.

Joel and Judi are happy to be moving to the Deerlake community. Their daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren live in Brevard. Joel and Judi have been visiting Brevard for many years and have owned a condo here for the last eight years. They decided a one-story home would be better than their two-story condo, and are very glad they were able to purchase a home in Deerlake, a community they long admired.

They have been married for 51 years and are currently real estate brokers specializing in property management in the High Point area (their permanent home is in Trinity, NC, just outside of High Point). Judi has worked in real estate management since 1985 and operated her own property management business for several years. Joel was Head of School at Wesleyan Christian Academy for 33 years, a pre-K to 12th grade school, prior to his work in real estate management. During his tenure at Wesleyan, the school grew from 300 to 1300 students and from 25,000 square feet to over 200,000 square feet of institutional space. Joel and Judi state that, "At this point in their life, we are so very grateful for the many blessings God has provided."

Please also welcome **Bruce Cox and Barbara Osgood-Cox** to the Mountains.

Bruce recently retired from Duke Energy as an IT Manager. Before he transitioned to IT he was a registered architect specializing in Computer Aided Facility Management for firms in Colorado and North Carolina. Barbara retired a few years ago from a 32-year career in the American Red Cross. She started her career in Denver, Colorado, was Executive Director in High Point and then worked as a Human Resource and Training Manager in Charlotte. She volunteers as a Guardian Ad Litem for foster children. Both enjoy gardening, canoeing, whitewater rafting, hiking, camping and love dogs. They moved to Deerlake from Matthews, NC, to be closer to their grandchildren, Emmy Jean (age 5) and Elliott (age 1) who live in Swannanoa. They chose Deerlake because of the obvious sense of community that exists here. Also, Brevard holds a special place in their heart as their son graduated from Brevard College.

Welcome **Scott and Kim Kinsler** to the Meadows

Scott and Kim moved to Brevard from St. Petersburg, FL in January of 2022 to be close to their daughter, son-in-law and three granddaughters. Kim was a teacher for 38 years and enjoys reading, crafts, community outreach, and spending time with her family. Scott is a project manager at Platt Management and enjoys sports, the outdoors, and family time.

### Deerlake ID Buttons and Car Decals, Bob Agnew

If you have not yet obtained your new Deerlake ID buttons or car decals, please email Bob Agnew at [bagnew@emory.edu](mailto:bagnew@emory.edu) or call him at 404-702-7845. He will deliver them to your house.

The old Deerlake ID tag (the green, numbered tag you pin to your shirt or hat) has been replaced with a new Deerlake ID button. The new button has a white background with a green Deerlake logo and is oval in shape. As noted in the Deerlake Policies, residents are expected to wear their Deerlake ID when using the picnic grove, lake (boating and fishing), and conservation easement.

The car decals are voluntary, although recommended for those who sometimes park in the clubhouse parking lot or on Deerlake roads (e.g., while fishing at the lake, using the clubhouse). The decals may be placed on your car's rear bumper, rear window, dash, or visor.



### Welcome Orientations for New Residents, Bob Agnew

The Welcome Committee is eager to hold orientations for new residents, at your convenience. The orientations, about an hour in length, are held at the Deerlake Clubhouse. Much useful information is provided, including an overview of Deerlake's amenities, rules and policies, and committees. Also, Deerlake ID buttons, car decals, pool keys, and pool ID bracelets are distributed to those who need them. If you are new to Deerlake and have not been contacted about an orientation, please email or call Bob Agnew, Chair of the Deerlake Welcome Committee, at [bagnew@embry.edu](mailto:bagnew@embry.edu) or 404-702-7845.



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**(Committee Updates, continued)**

**T.G.I.F., Nancy Davis**

Thirty residents attended the St. Patrick's Day T.G.I.F. held on Friday, March 17. With tables decorated in green and white and shamrocks everywhere, Margo and Chris Williamson and Penny and Jim Grecni created a fun evening for all.

The next T.G.I.F. will be a Pizza Party on Friday, April 21, from 5-7 p.m. The cost for each resident will be \$10.00. The cost includes pizza, salad, dessert, and the usual \$1.00 per person donation. Please bring your own beverage of choice.

**Reservations are needed by April 18.** Please email Nancy Davis at [davisnancy112@gmail.com](mailto:davisnancy112@gmail.com) to make a reservation. Please email by April 19 if you need to cancel; otherwise, you will be expected to pay.



**Editorial Comments, Rich Schram**

**UPS Desserts** Thank you, Donna Raspa, for volunteering to create a dessert for the UPS staff in support of the April Diary. Also, belated thanks to Helen Herman for her spontaneous donations to UPS and the postal staff last year and during recent months.

The ongoing efforts of numerous Deerlake volunteers and the dedication and professionalism of the UPS staff and USPS personnel make creation and delivery of our monthly newsletter a smooth-running machine. Thank you!

**Deerlake Book Club, Chris McKowen**

Our April book club meeting will be held on April 27 at 1:00 p.m. in the clubhouse. Our book will be *One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus. Books will be available for check out in the clubhouse. Come and join the fun. We are planning a Bring a Guest to Book club evening on May 25 with dessert and drinks. So keep us in mind for some good reading, food, and fun! Any questions, please see my contact info in the Deerlake Directory. Happy reading.

**Clubhouse Committee, Bonnie McMahon**

**A Reminder** - If the 'Private Party' sign is posted on the clubhouse door, please visit the clubhouse at another time. We have had multiple complaints from our clubhouse renters of residents disregarding the 'Private Party' sign and entering the clubhouse for various reasons. Be considerate of our neighbors sponsoring events and do not enter unless you are an invited guest. Thank you.



**Sit 'n Stitch, Margo Williamson**

The Sit and Stitchers welcomes all who have a portable craft to join us on Tuesday evenings. We have changed the start time to 6:30 p.m., and usually end our gatherings before 8 p.m. With spring here, we hope to enjoy the longer evenings, and even plan to meet outside as weather permits. If you would like to stop in and check it out, please drop by the clubhouse on Tuesdays at 6:30. And if anyone would like free basic knitting/crocheting lessons, just let me know. I can bring the tools and yarn!



**Weekly Bocce Games Resume, Lou Shelley**

Weekly Bocce games will resume at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 30, and will be held from 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. every Thursday morning until late October. The games are informal and having fun is more important than winning or losing. Even if you haven't played before, come join our lively group! The Bocce court is below the clubhouse, near Deerlake Drive. If you have any questions, you may find my contact info in the Deerlake Directory.



# Around Our Community

## We Are Predesignated Targets! Rich Schram

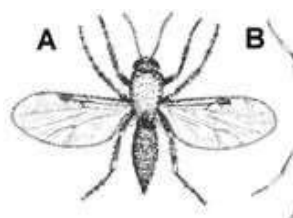


Photo credit: NC State Extension,  
<https://content.ncsu.edu>

Gnats! Among mankind's list of hated insects, many people rank gnats with mosquitoes as one of nature's greatest abominations. Nasty little buggers! On their blood-source *gnatabase*, we're nothing but exotic *gnatnip*. As

Charles Darwin struggled to classify these despised insects, I see him swatting at his ankles and dancing with castagnats like a zealot at the persecution of the St. Vitus. (A cautionary aside: don't confuse this *Vitus* with the 1970's doom-metal band *Saint Vitus*. Darwin — a dedicated nature and music enthusiast — would surely have preferred *Helmet of Gnats*, an entomology-titled, instrumental symphonic fusion quartet.)

Outdoors, gnats attack us like *gnatzi bite gnationalists*. Alternatively, in more techy terms from OpenAI, "biting gnats are like teenagers on spring break. They are indiscriminate and will bite anything that moves." They cloud around our heads, supping on our blood like it's *gnata-touille*. We resist, although the battle is nip-and-suck as we sometimes involuntarily inhale their bodies — at about 1/4 to 2/3 of a calorie each, if stats on Homesteading-Today.com hold any scientific validity. Battling on, we don our *hazgnat* suits and apply *gnatralizing* spray. It's assault and *gnattery*, and we need an attorney with skills like Ben *Gnatlock*. In court, we would display our festering bites, *gnatooed* evidence of exsanguination. We are not a smidgen amused as we indignantly slap our knees bloody. *Gnat* a laughing matter! Will we settle for a *gnaturopathic* cure? No! We demand *gnatisfaction*.

Entomologists at NC State and other schools offer various names for gnats: biting midges (too innocuous, I think; it sounds like a grade-school kickball team), no-see-ums (too quaint; it masks gnats' dark, irritating intent), moose flies (wrong animal for western NC), and punkies (a better term but it needs to be preceded by descriptive swear words).

Sadly, our local gnats are blood-thirsty and lack the usefulness of certain international cousins: chocolate midges. Do you doubt their existence? Are you an *agnatstic*? Chocolate midges are a real thing, from midge species scientifically named *Forcipomyia* and *Euprojoannisia*. (Skip the names; just proving I researched.) The point is this: the F-and-E species perform useful work in Central and South America, Africa, and Asia. Beginning at dawn,

while our gnats are sharpening their mandibles for use against walkers, picnickers, and bocce ball players, the F-and-E gnats — heroes to chocolatiers worldwide — are pollinating cacao flowers. You Rah-Rah! Go Midgies!

Far Side cartoonist Gary Larson saw humor in gnats: his 2-17-67 comic showed a gnat drilling a sleeping man's nose until only withered cartilage remained. I say, "*Gnat Zooks! Why all this blood-letting?*" It has to do with gnats' life-cycle. Adult-stage females drain our blood with surgical-quality mouthparts. When needs must, other large mammals are also targeted, although some smaller midge species feed on other insects. (Which perhaps explains the genesis of the song, *Poor Butterfly*.)

In gnats' adult stages, smaller species may be only 1/2 a mm long, tiny enough to slip through household screens. Both male and female midges feed on plant sap and nectar. However, for fertilized females to lay viable eggs, they require blood protein — often ours. 🤢 This makes our gnat-slapping, picnicking donors an obvious choice. You see, the Appalachians are an inviting habitat. *Gnaturally*.

As the shorter-lived, assignation-exhausted males prepare to take the big mulch nap, the impregnated and protein-fueled females lay 25 to 150 eggs in moist or muddy soil, swamps, marshes, *stagnat* ponds, or at stream edges. After about 2-7 days, the eggs are about 1/4 of a mm long and hatch into variations of the wormlike larvae. The larvae morph through four stages in caterpillar or wormlike shapes lasting from 2 weeks to a year. As explained on a Purdue extension site, the fourth larval stage may overwinter before graduating to a non-feeding pupa stage. Both the larvae and pupa may be about 3.5 to 4 mm long or less. Then the life cycle begins again.

Although gnats are irritating and may hinder tourism (sometimes desirable), Mother Earth needs them. They are a food source for frogs, reptiles, birds, spiders, small mammals, bats, some small fish, and other insects. But not everyone appreciates how insects — specifically gnats — help balance our natural world and support the food chain. A March 23 NY Times article reported, "According to many state statutes, insects are not considered wildlife," implying it's OK to kill all insects. I think we need an insect appreciation reset. As Kate Redmond, a UW-Milwaukee nature educator, suggests, "Less stepping on bugs." Perhaps try *Deep Woods Off* to keep gnats at bay and avoid slap-induced dislocated shoulders.

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# Directors and Committee Chairs

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President, Mike Thompson</b>	2023
mstlaz@msn.com	480-489-7588
<b>Vice President, Phil Davis</b>	2024
mtneer70@gmail.com	877-4555
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deerlake.nc@gmail.com	828-388-5953
<b>Secretary, Donna Raspa</b>	2023
donnandbill.raspa@gmail.com	577-1440
<b>Director, Jack Christfield</b>	2023
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<b>Director, Agnes Tyna</b>	2025
karpathegyek13@gmail.com	828-885-2034
<b>Director, Susan Toscani</b>	2024
sdtoscani@gmail.com	883-8223
<b>Eagle Run Liaison, Chuck Baxter</b>	(828) 226-7271
<b>Quail Run Liaison, Karl Ventre</b>	337-278-3629

**DVCA Website:** <https://deerlakevillage.org>

**Website Submissions:** [jack@jackchristfield.com](mailto:jack@jackchristfield.com)

**Diary Submissions:** [richdeerlakediary@gmail.com](mailto:richdeerlakediary@gmail.com)

### Contact Updates:

All updates are included in the new Directory that was included as part of this month's mailing of the Diary.

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b>Architectural Review</b>	Geoff Davis	713-818-9625
	Existing Home Requests	
	Phil Davis	828-877-4555
	New Home Construction	
<b>Clubhouse Reservations</b>	Bonnie McMahon	828-577-0791
	Secondary #	1-828-291-2329
<b>Community Activities</b>	Carol Weinhofer	883-2031
<b>Community Relations</b>	Brent Dormann	308-631-2427
<b>Conservation</b>		
<b>Easement</b>	Melissa Driver	828-989-1324
<b>Directory</b>	Robert Overbeck	914-522-5317
<b>Deerlake ID Tags</b>	Bob Agnew	404-702-7845
<b>Emergency Prep.</b>	Bob Williams	966-5584
<b>Finance</b>	Brenda Bryan	290-4004
<b>Lake Management</b>	Jim Furniss	884-7280
<b>Landscape Review</b>	To be determined	
<b>Maintenance</b>	Brenda Bryan	290-4004
<b>Newsletter</b>	Rich Schram	577-1924
<b>Pool</b>	Margo Williamson	649-5787
<b>Purple Flag Notice</b>	Donna Raspa	577-1440
<b>TGIF Coordinator</b>	Nancy Davis	877-4555
<b>Welcome</b>	Bob Agnew	404-702-7845
<b>WSL Fund</b>	Marcia Schneider	862-6755

## Ongoing Community Activity Contacts

**Bible Study,** Burt Mullins

**Bocce Ball,** Lou Shelley

**Book Club,** Chris McKowen

**Dog Walkers,** Don Washington

**Mahjongg,** Kathy Abbott

**Poker,** Don Herman

**Pool,** Sandy Westney

**Pool-Key Contact,** Margo Williamson

**Sit 'n Stitch,** Margo Williamson

Deerlake Village Community Association, Inc.  
Deerlake Diary  
Post Office Box 2186  
Brevard, NC 28712

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