



the ECHO

SAVORING APRIL AT THE TAVERN

*A Journey of Flavor and
Fun*

DAY TRIPPING

*Wine, Whimsy and Why
Not?*

ACROSS THE NET

*An interview with
a Tennis player,
Dick Kilpatrick*

FROM BENT TREE TO PGA TRIUMPH

THE JOURNEY OF LUKE LIST

An exclusive interview

APRIL 2024

A BENT TREE
PUBLICATION



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About
DR.
MICHELLE F.
IRELAND



For over 20 years, Dr. Michelle F. Ireland has perfected the smiles of thousands of patients. Dr. Ireland graduated with her Doctorate of Medicine in Dentistry (D.M.D.) from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in 1994 and became licensed to practice as a general dentist. Upon graduation, she completed additional educational requirements and specialized training at the UAB School of Dentistry to become a prosthodontist.

Dr. Ireland has served as a professor at UAB School of Dentistry in the Department of Prosthodontics, where she enjoyed teaching crown and bridge prosthodontics and

removable prosthodontics with an emphasis on esthetics, occlusion, and implant restoration.

Over the years, Dr. Ireland has counseled former students, general dentists and their patients, and continues to receive extensive training in the field of dentistry and prosthodontics. Dr. Ireland has built a reputation as a caring, compassionate, and competent dental practitioner. Her additional expertise is a blessing and is evident in the way patients are accepting of her recommendations.



Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R's)

By Buddy Creef – President, Bent Tree Board of Directors

Later this year, the community will be asked to vote on changes to the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R's) of the community. The CC&R's are one of the governing documents of Bent Tree. Their modification is not to be taken lightly but, from time to time, it is necessary to update and/or modify them. To that end, several years ago the Board of Directors set up an Ad Hoc Documents Committee to review and recommend changes to the Community Documents including the CC&R's. These recommendations have been modified to the proposed changes that are posted on the Bent Tree website. Please go there to review all the proposed changes and please plan to vote when the time comes. This article will address a few of the most substantial proposed changes.

1. Resort Fee

In a continuing effort to generate revenue from sources other than Bent Tree members, a resort fee will be proposed for short term rentals. The fee, as proposed, would start at \$25 per night and could be adjusted annually by the Board of Directors. All Airbnb, VRBO, or similar short term renters (less than 30 days) would be subject to this fee. Revenues derived from this fee would be added to the General Capital fund to be used for capital projects at Bent Tree. This has become a common fee applied to short-term rentals in many communities and resorts. Many Bent Tree residents have experienced similar fees when traveling. Based on the number of short-term rental properties in Bent Tree at this time, this fee would be expected to contribute close to \$100,000 per year to Bent Tree's Capital Fund.

2. Reallocation of Capital

Article V, Section 2(d) of the CC&R's established the Capital Maintenance and Replacement Assessment. This assessment was intended to fund the capital needs of the community. In 2024, on developed lots, this assessment is \$548. Per Section 2(d), the assessment is divided among three lock boxes as follows: 25% of the assessment is placed in a lock box for Road Paving, 30% of the assessment is placed in a lock box for Equipment Replacement, and 45% is placed in a lock box for the Maintenance and Replacement of Buildings and Other Facilities. The proposed change would allow the Board of Directors, with the approval of 3/4ths of the members, to reallocate the funds among the buckets in a given year.

Why is this change being recommended? As an example, we all know that Bent Tree roads are in need of improvement. The consultant that was hired a few years ago recommended that the roads be re-paved on a 20 year schedule. At current funding levels, our schedule is over 40 years. With the proposed change, if 3/4ths of the Board felt the need warranted it, they would have the authority to move some of the money which was allocated to one of the other lock boxes to the Road Paving lock box. This would give the board more flexibility to meet the capital needs of the community while ensuring that all of the assessment would be spent for capital needs.

3. Deletion of Requirement for AC to approve builders

At the request of the Architectural Committee (AC), it is recommended that we eliminate Article V, Section 8. Section 8 requires that AC approve builders. While it is the responsibility of AC to vet builders selected by homeowners, it should not be Bent Tree's responsibility to approve builders. Additionally, approval of builders would open Bent Tree to additional liability should the approved vendor default or have other problems.

4. Business Use of Homes in Bent Tree

As currently written, Article V, Section 25 states, "no house or other structure on any residential lot shall be used for office or business purposes". This would prohibit what has become common practice, which is for many people to work from home. The Ad Hoc committee is proposing changes to Sections 22 and 25 to allow work from home with clearly defined limits to allow residents to work from home while retaining the attributes of Bent Tree. Approval of these changes would clearly define the types of work activity that can be conducted in Bent Tree.

Please visit the Bent Tree website at www.bent-tree.com to learn more about these and other proposed changes. There will be at least one more Town Hall to review the final wording and discuss the changes and the process for approval. Please plan to attend.



CONTACT US TODAY - 770-623-6220 - info@frontporchatlanta.com

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Falls Prevention Class, April 13th

By Michael Koorey, Director of Safety and Emergency Management

On Saturday, April 13th at 9:00AM, Bent Tree Public Safety will be partnering with The Lodge at Stephens Lake to hold a Falls Prevention Class in the Recreation Room of Club Tamarack. Approximately one half of the medical calls our department responds to are related to falls, and some involve very serious injuries. Falling is a significant health threat that we want to help people overcome. Residents who struggle with falling or are close to someone who does are strongly encouraged to attend. The class will last approximately two hours and refreshments will be served.

Attendees will be taught the most common contributing factors to falls. Exercises will be demonstrated to help you stay strong to prevent falls or reduce injury if one occurs. Instructors will share how to prevent falls around the home with tips on keeping your physical environment a fall-free space. The information that will be shared during this free event could make a major difference in the lives of those who have issues with falls.

We are passionate about improving the quality of life for our residents, and providing education like this is a great way to accomplish that. We hope there is a tremendous turnout for this free and very beneficial class. Please register as soon as possible by calling Jessi Barton at 706-307-4330 or emailing her at jessi@thelodgeatstephenslake.com.

Friends of the Forest – Butterflies

By Lynn Kaiser Conrad

The Georgia State Butterfly is a familiar visitor to Bent Tree. The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail is distinct because of its yellow background and black tiger stripes.

This butterfly has a short life cycle, so enjoy them while you can. Eggs are only around for four to 10 days. The caterpillar cycle, the longest portion of life, lasts three to four weeks. Next, is the quiet chrysalis period which runs from 10-20 days. Finally, a butterfly emerges, and if it is lucky, will fly and glide and pollinate for a full two weeks.

Other popular area butterflies include the Cloudless Sulphur. It is bright yellow, a strong flier and abundant in late summer.

The Gulf Fritillary is bright orange with a black edge and black dots.

The American Lady butterfly is a muted orange with black markings and heavier black coloring on the shoulders. There are also white and cobalt blue dots (eyes) hemming the perimeter of the wings.

The Appalachian Brown butterfly is understated with its mocha brown base and milk chocolate-colored veins running across its wings. The yellow, black, and white touches add a bit of elegance.

To attract these graceful beauties to your yard, you need host plants. Pollinating flowers include zinnias, purple cone flowers, and hyssops. Trees are also key to the butterfly lifespan. Cottonwoods, Wild Cherry, Ash, Birch, Basswood and Sweet bay Magnolia trees are popular amongst butterflies. Butterflies are pollinators and hence great for the environment.

Public Safety Stats from 2/1/24 – 2/29/24

By Michael Koorey - Director,
Trevor Beavers - Fire Chief,
John Hawkins - Assistant Fire Chief

Call Responses

Fire	17
Medical	25
Resident Complaints	4
Resident Assists	9
Property/Resident Checks	4
Animal Calls	11
Public Safety Calls	13
Total	83
2024 Total	192

Patrol Mileage

Total Patrol Mileage (2/1 – 2/29)	1,318
2024 Total	3,300

Citations

Written Citations	21
Warnings	9
Total (2/1 – 2/29)	30

40 Little Pine Mountain Road Jasper, GA 30143
770-893-2628 • publicsafety@bent-tree.com



Employee Birthdays

Dan Fitts	April 1	Tennis
John Hawkins	April 9	Public Safety
Nolan Thuma	April 11	Public Safety
Joshua Pitters	April 12	Public Safety
Ethan McMillan	April 13	Pro Shop
Kenny Rogers	April 21	Golf Maintenance
Paula Bush	April 29	The Tavern

We Want You...

- ... to email us short stories, interviews, poetry, and articles of general interest to our residents.
- ... to tell us what articles you would like to see.
- ... to share with us some of your amazing Bent Tree related images.

Thanks.

echo Editorial Committee

2024 Bent Tree Board of Directors

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Michael Kahn – Vice President

LAD Committee Liaison

Arty Allen – Secretary

The Courts Committee Liaison

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Charles Rice

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David Stone

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Contact the Editor of the *echo* at
btecho@etcmail.com

GPS Directions to Bent Tree

Please give your visitors the following address (1 Little Pine Mountain Rd, Jasper, GA) to gain access into the front gate on Bent Tree Drive, which will alleviate GPS systems from sending them to the back gate off Grandview Rd.



“Spring Blooming of a Learning Tree”

By Jim Pryor, General Manager

A little over 10 years ago, resident Mary Lou Weng planted a tree, a learning tree.

Learning Tree is not actually a tree, but a community program that was developed to provide Bent Tree residents an opportunity to learn about the community in which they live. It is very similar to leadership programs that Chamber of Commerce’s do all over the country to educate people in their communities which in turn set them up for networking or leadership opportunities. The Bent Tree community has always prided itself on being a “community of the people”, or one that relies on the volunteer pride of its residents for outreach opportunities. Bent Tree is a unique community, so Learning Tree provides an opportunity to educate on all its uniqueness’s.

At one time in my career, I served as an Adjunct College Professor. After being a student for 18 years of my life, I cannot lie, it was pretty cool being a professor. As a professor, I gave a test on the first day of class, just because I could. I always thought it was important to determine a baseline level of subject knowledge for students so in the end I could tell if my teachings actually helped them. I actually did grade the test, but didn’t count the score against the students actual grade for the class. The purpose was to set the table for what they might learn.

So, Bent Tree, let’s take a quick test prior to Learning Tree:

Who was the original owner in the 1960’s of the property now known as Bent Tree?

Who was the original owner/developer of Bent Tree?

What year was the Bent Tree Golf Course opened?

Is Lake Tamarack a natural lake or a man-made lake?

How did the community become owned by the residents?

What year was Bent Tree Community Inc. established?

How many home sites were in Bent Tree in the year 2000?

What year was AGUF developed?

How many Board of Directors are there?

Besides writing a monthly Echo article, why does Bent Tree operate using a General Manager?

What is the Bent Tree Community Inc’s annual operating budget for 2024?

If these questions intrigue you, then Learning Tree is the place to come to learn more about the Bent Tree Community from beginning to the present. The program will be offered during the 5 Wednesday evenings in May. Be on the lookout for promotion and registration information in the Friday News. I would like to thank the many volunteers who have participated in the last year to make this program happen and to those willing to share their expertise in presenting the sessions.

Calling All Candidates For the 2025 Bent Tree Board Of Directors

By Nomination and Election Committee Supervisor Sandra Stewart and Election Committee Advisor Margi Robinson

As mentioned in last month's Echo, the Bent Tree Board of Directors will have three members who will complete their terms of service and will "roll off" this year. As a result, we will be holding elections for three new members. The Board is now soliciting those interested in serving on the Board for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2025. The qualifications, specifications, and deadlines for those interested in running for election are provided below.

Candidate Qualifications

Any candidate must:

1. be a member of Bent Tree Community, Inc. at least 150 days before the Annual Election;
2. file a notice of intent to run with the Secretary of BTCI containing such information as may be reasonably required by the Board;
3. have demonstrated a willingness and desire to serve; and
4. not be an employee of Bent Tree.

Bent Tree By-Laws, Art. III.A., § 9.

Candidate Timeline and Submission Requirements

May 16 – A candidate must be a member of BTCI at least 150 days before the Annual Meeting (on or before May 16th). Potential candidates may wish to confirm member status with BT Administration.

May 20 – Candidates must submit by email to Board Secretary Arty Allen, allen@bent-tree.com AND to BT Administration through Deborah Guffey, dguffey@bent-tree.com:

- (1) a letter of intent to run for the Board of Directors;
- (2) two letters of reference/endorsement from two other BTCI members in good standing; and,
- (3) a signed BTCI Board Member Code of Ethics form (forms available at BT Administration).

May 24 – Candidates must submit to Margie Robinson, marjorierobinson@yahoo.com, and Sandra Stewart, poppetwestlake@gmail.com, co-chairmen of the Elections Committee, a resume and a photograph for publication in the July Echo and on the BTCI website.

Resume Content and Format Requirements:

Each candidate resume should contain **no more than 300 words**. This word count limit will be strictly enforced and resumes exceeding the word count may be rejected. The preferred format is standard resume/bullet point form. Your resume is not to be a narrative document nor a campaign document. Your vision, etc. are to be reserved for your candidate essay (see instructions below). Each resume must begin with a block header, centered at the top, containing the following, in order:

Name (as it will appear on the ballot)
Street Address
Lot Number
Email Address

The resume must be typed in Microsoft Word format, double spaced in 12-point Times New Roman.

Photograph Requirements:

A candidate should provide a photograph that is not a part of the resume and that is not attached/affixed to the resume. The photograph should be a clear, recent depiction of the candidate.

June 2 – Essays must be submitted by email to Margie Robinson, margierobinson@yahoo.com and Sandra Stewart, poppetwestlake@gmail.com, co-chairmen of the Elections Committee, by June 2nd. Each candidate must provide an essay of **no more than 500 words** outlining his/her "platform," the reasons the candidate is running, the vision the candidate has for Bent Tree, and why members should vote for the candidate. The word count limit will be strictly enforced and essays exceeding the word count may be rejected. Details and specifications will be provided to the candidates upon their qualifying for the election. These essays will be published in the July Echo.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 11 – The Board of Directors will host a **Meet the Candidates** event at Club Tamarack on August 11th at 2:00 p.m. This will give the candidates an opportunity to meet the voting members of Bent Tree and to answer their questions.

October 13 – The **BTCI Annual Meeting** will be on October 13th at 2:00 p.m.

ELECTIONS THIS YEAR WILL BE ELECTRONIC AND HANDLED BY THE COMPANY VOTEGRITY. MORE DETAILS ON THE NEW VOTING PROCESS AND THE TIME-FRAME FOR VOTING WILL BE IN AN UPCOMING ISSUE OF THE ECHO.



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Across the Net: An interview with a Tennis player, Dick Kilpatrick

Q. Where were you born?

A. I was born in Starkville, Ms. Where my dad was finishing up college at Mississippi State University. We soon settled in Savannah, Ga. where we remained through my 7th grade year, then moved to Chamblee, Ga. (Atlanta suburb) to finish high school.

Q. What is your favorite color?

A. I guess my favorite color is red, being a UGA bulldog.

Q. Have a favorite food?

A. My favorite food is shrimp fried rice, homemade of course.

Q. Have a favorite movie?

A. My favorite movie is "The Legend of Bagger Vance": a story about golf, tough times in the 1930's, Savannah, Ga., WWI, PTSD, guardian angel, and a love story...all in one movie. As info, the golf match is Bobby Jones, Walter Hagen, and a Savannah local.

Q. What genre of music do you like most?

A. My favorite music is songs of the '70's. Especially Neal Diamond & Moody Blues

My favorite song is "Cats in the Cradle" by Harry Chapin. Chorus: "We'll get together soon Son; you know we'll have a good time then." As info, they never got together.

Q. Have a favorite subject in high school?

A. My favorite high school subject was Biology.

Q. Who was your best childhood friend? What was the craziest thing you ever did together?

A. Robert Anderson was one of many childhood friends. Once we captured a snapping turtle that was about 15" across the back side. Our biggest problem was, what do we do with him now? Eventually, we opened the cage, and watched him walk straight off the walking bridge and splash back into the canal...happy to be free again.

Q. Last book you read?

A. Exodus and Matthew

Q. Did you attend College? If so, what was your major?

A. I graduated from UGA, majoring in Chemistry and Business.

Q. Who were your favorite schoolteachers, Elementary, Middle and High School? And why?

A. Mrs. Rogers: paid me a great compliment in front of the entire class.

Wow...forgot her name: She was handing out report cards in class, and came to me with this comment: "this is the first time I ever gave a student an A in World History and an F in conduct." Yikes, that hurt. I made "A's" in both categories the rest of the year.

Mr. G. Wayne Wilson: my HS chemistry and physics teacher, and upon retirement he became a valued resident and community leader in Bent Tree.

Q. How many jobs/careers have you had? Which did you enjoy the most? Which was your least favorite? And why?

A. ● Veterinary Assistant

- Door to Door salesman of encyclopedias: hated this job, but I did learn a lot.
- Door to Door salesman of Fuller Brush
- Clerk at Allied Van Lines distribution office
- Salesclerk at local department store (like Walmart, before Walmart existed)
- Milliken & Co. manager: 36 years of an incredibly exciting and rewarding job.

Q. How many places have you lived? Which was your favorite?

A. I've lived in 11 different cities, and my favorite by far is Bent Tree.

Q. What kind of car do you drive? What is your dream car?

A. I drive a Prius and a Tacoma.

I'm fine with what I have, (no dream car desired) as both vehicles are tools that provide great service.

Q. How did you get to Bent Tree? What do you enjoy most about living here?

A. We scoured north Georgia for two years before stumbling into Big Canoe and Bent Tree. We settled for the BEST.

I love tennis. And will occasionally play Pickleball. But what I love most about Bent Tree are my many friends that reside there.

Q. Are you married? If so, how did you meet your spouse? Where did you take them on your first date? Children? Grandchildren?

A. Yes, married. We met on a blind date at UGA, attending a football game of UGA Vs Auburn. We lost the game, but I won a wife.

We have 3 great kids (one is a "kid raiser", one is an attorney/professor, and one is a doctor) and 2 grandkids. Our youngest grandson is 9, plays soccer, and lives for fun. He can spell words forwards and backwards. He's a brilliant student, and his teachers love him. Our granddaughter is almost 12. She walks dogs for cash, raises reptiles, and produces personalized computer logos and greeting cards...for sale (\$2 each). She also plays soccer and basketball. She's "lightning fast" on the field.

Q. Have in other Hobbies?

A. Tennis, hiking, fly fishing, gardening.

Q. How long have you played tennis? What keeps you playing?

A. I've played tennis since I was 9, so that's about 65 years.

The friends I play with, and the competition keep me in the sport.

Q. Something about you that would totally shock people if they knew?

A. I read through the entire Bible every year and have since retirement 15 years ago. Still finding new things each time I read it. Also, I once played in the 3M Senior Pro-Am Open Championships, and with an 18 handicap, contributed 7 points to our 11 under par performance. Amazing, we were all duffers with one great pro, Jim Albus. I sank a 52ft put for a net eagle on the par 5 eighteenth hole. A day of golf I will remember forever.

Q. What's the craziest situation you've ever found yourself in?

A. What to do with that snapping turtle has got to be high on my list. However, there is one other: I once was down 0-6, 0-5 and love-40 in a high school tennis match, and I somehow eventually won the match. As Coach V said, "never give up".

Q. Favorite sports team, college, or pros?

A. Tie between UGA bulldogs and Atlanta Braves

Q. What do you consider your greatest accomplishment in your life?

A. Raising 3 Christian kids and watching them excel way past me.

Q. What would "older you" tell "20-year-old you" if that were possible?

A. Work hard and give your best effort on the career path you choose, but make sure you remember your job is NOT the most important thing in your life.

Q. Have any tattoos? If so, how many?

A. Zero tattoos, with no plans to add more.

Q. If you could talk with a loved one that has passed, who would that be? What would you talk about?

A. I'd like to talk to my father, and ask, how's it going up there? And...do I need to bring anything with me when it's my turn to come up?

Huge thank you to Dick for sharing a portion of his story with us. I got to know him through the tennis center and thoroughly enjoyed our time on the courts, both as an ally and even an adversary. Dick certainly left his mark on Bent Tree through his generosity and willingness to serve others, both inside and outside of our community. He and Debbie have since relocated to Greenville SC to be closer to children and the grands. He still comes back to visit (and maybe even squeeze in some court time), just not often enough. He and Debbie are missed.

Please consider sharing your story with others when the opportunity presents. You never know the impact it may have on others.

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From the Golf Pro

By Patrick Higgins

The WHS (World Handicap System): 3 key changes for 2024

1. A lower minimum length for a golf course to obtain a course rating and a slope rating.
2. A new treatment of 9-hole scores
3. An updated approach for holes not played.

Below is a link to the USGA website that gives a summary of the changes that are in effect starting this year.

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping/world-handicap-system/2024-revision.html>

Our 2024 Junior Golf Camp schedule is ready for the summer. We are offering 5 camps over June & July. This is a great way to introduce your kids or grandkids to golf in a fun and friendly environment. Instruction will be led by the Head Golf Professional (Patrick Higgins) and the kids will get to enjoy some quality time on the golf course to learn basic etiquette and the foundations of the game.

We will also be hosting a PGA Junior Golf League again this summer. All information and registration details can be found on www.pgajrleague.com This is a 3 month golf program that kicks off in April and runs through June, with some end of season activities in July before the kids go back to school. This is an emphasis on fun and family. Kids do not have to be experienced with golf to join, but they will learn a lot throughout the season and make a lot of memories and new friends on the course.

Can't wait for the warmer weather to kick into gear and have another fun season at Bent Tree.

See you all soon!



2024 Bent Tree Junior Golf Camps

Dates: June 3rd, 4th & 5th

June 25th, 26th & 27th

July 10th, 11th & 12th

July 17th, 18th & 19th

July 24th, 25th & 26th

Ages 6–14 10am–2pm

Price: \$250 per child, includes instruction, refreshments & prizes

- Action-packed camps include hands-on instruction led by certified PGA Professionals.
- Signature PGA camp curriculum focuses on developing golf skills (full swing, short game, rules and etiquette) while keeping the experience fun and engaging (games and activities).
- A fun, safe and educational environment designed with your child's wellbeing in mind.
- Playdays consisting of 3, 6 and 9 holes of golf.
- Age ranges from 6 – 14

Sign up at the pro shop or email: patrickhiggins@bent-tree.com



Stables Spring Fling Clean Up

Mark your calendar. The barn could use a thorough cleaning from top to bottom, and we can use YOUR help.

When is this fun community event?

Saturday April 13 from 10AM to 1PM

Who do we need to work?

Volunteers who are willing and able. In fact, grab your friends or come alone, we will be here. And you can come for one hour or all four. That is your choice. We need all adults and teens who are willing to get dirty, have camaraderie and a sense of accomplishment for contributing to this worthy safety event.

What are we doing?

Using leaf blowers to clean the loft (se we need a blower brigade). This is the first task. Must be able to climb to loft and competently use a power blower. These volunteers should be there by 9:45.

Pressure wash saddle pads (oh yeah, this will require strength and humor)

Store laundered winter blankets, broom clean stalls & doors, wipe down fans, sweep aisle stall mats, rake barn aisle, clean bathrooms, clean classroom, clean kitchen, leather condition saddles and tack. (these volunteers can have all types of skills, bur being able to stand on your feet for 15 minutes is required).

What should you wear?

Wear clothes you are fine with getting dirty. We suggest the following: a hat, closed toed shoes or boots, gloves (rubber or garden), mask (if you are blowing) protective eye wear (if you are blowing), bandana, neck gaiter.

What can you bring?

We're glad you asked. Since this is such a huge job, we don't have enough of the following:

- Brooms
- Leaf blowers
- Pressure washer
- Bleach
- Rags
- Sponges
- Scrub brushes
- And snacks for all the volunteers

What can you donate if you cannot attend and still want to help? See the above list.

If you don't want to work, but want to watch (or better yet supervise and tell others what to do), feel free to come on down too.

We're like Motel 6. We will leave the light on for you. We hope to see you and your band of buddies. For questions or to register as a volunteer please call (706) 692-6322. See you at the barn!



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Bent Tree Stables – Camp Counselor Alison Ritch

by Keeve Krasner, Stable Master

Please meet Alison Ritch. Alison was one of our summer horse camp counselors last year at the Bent Tree Stables. I first met Alison, along with her mom Renee, when they came and did a trail ride with us and very much enjoyed our beautiful trails and wonderful horses. Alison, who has a passion for horses among other talents, is also a valued volunteer who helps out at our barn as often as her time permits. She definitely caught my attention with her easy going nature, good work ethic and a very pleasant personality. That is why I offered her an opportunity to work as a summer horse camp counselor last summer and have offered her the same position for this summer season.



While working at our stable, I got to know Alison, a junior in high school, even better. It turns out that Alison is also a very accomplished gymnast who specializes in the uneven bars and the floor exercise. Her skillset has caught the attention of many university recruiters, including the US Airforce Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, which landed her a pending scholarship to attend the Academy when she graduates. She says she is considering it among several other universities. I was able to catch a glimpse of her gymnastic talent last year during horse camp, on a day that we took the camp children to the lake over by the spillway and let them swim with the horses. This is always a fun and exciting event for our campers, especially at the end of the swim when they climb up on the horse's back and jump out as far as they can into the water. Camp counselors also take a turn with the swimming and the jumping. It is evident from the included photo of Alison jumping off of the back of our horse Felix, that this girl definitely has the talent and grace of an accomplished gymnast.

Alison was a huge asset to the summer horse camp program with her horse riding skills out on trail and with her charming way of working with the camp children. She made a lot of friends at summer camp and won the adoration of so many of our camper children. This is why we are welcoming Alison to come back again this year as a summer camp counselor. We really hope that she will.

As of this printing of The Echo, we have had just an overwhelming response to summer camp registration. Thus, registration is either full or nearly full. If you are interested in summer camp for your child or grandchild, please contact the stables and inquire as to available space. We do keep a waiting list and sometimes we get cancellations or are able to add space if we acquire another horse before the start of the camp season.

For those of you who are interested in helping to improve the appearance of the stables, we will be having a volunteer stable cleanup day on Saturday, April 13th with a rain date of Saturday, April 20th. Please consider coming down to help out. More information and reminders will be published in upcoming Friday News bulletins.

Remember, the barn is open all year, so catch a beautiful spring day and come on down to the stable and enjoy a relaxing trail ride or tune up your skills with a horse riding lesson. We are open Wednesdays thru Sunday with same day reservations; and also open Mondays and Tuesdays with 24 hour advance reservations. Until then, Happy Trails.

For more information and reservations, please contact the stables at 706-692-6322.

Bent Tree STABLES

Summer HORSE CAMP

CHILDREN AGES 6-13

CHOOSE FROM ONE OR MORE CAMP SESSIONS

- JUNE 10 - 14
- JULY 8 - 12
- JUNE 17 - 21
- JULY 15 - 19

HOURS: 8:30 AM TO 4:30 PM. ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR EARLY DROP-OFF AND/OR LATE PICK-UP.

FOCUS: KIDS SPEND THE FIRST HALF OF THE DAY LEARNING HOW TO CARE FOR, GROOM, TACK AND RIDE HORSES. EMPHASIS IS ON LEARNING TO RIDE OR IMPROVING YOUR RIDING SKILLS. OTHER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE ARTS AND CRAFTS, GAMES, SWIMMING AND COOLING OFF AT THE BEACH.

COST PER CHILD: \$550 FOR 1 WEEK, \$1000 FOR 2 WEEKS, \$1800 FOR 4 WEEKS

DEPOSIT PER CHILD: \$100 (FULLY REFUNDABLE UNTIL MAY 15TH FOR JUNE CAMPS UNTIL JUNE 15TH FOR JULY CAMPS)

REGISTRATION FORM: DOWNLOAD FROM: BENT-TREE.COM/AMENITIES/STABLES/SUMMER_CAMPS

ADVANCE DUE: PAYMENT IN FULL DUE TWO WEEKS BEFORE START OF CAMP DATE

REFUNDS: FOR MEDICAL OR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE, ADVANCE DUE WILL BE FULLY REFUNDABLE

DISCLAIMER: CAMPS THAT DO NOT MEET A MINIMUM PARTICIPATION LEVEL OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON MAY BE CANCELLED WITH AN OPTION TO PICK ANOTHER CAMP DATE OR BE FULLY REFUNDED.

PAYMENTS: MAKE CHECKS OUT TO BENT TREE STABLES, 2225 TAMARACK DR #20092, JASPER, GA 30143

FOR QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL: BTSTABLES@ETCMAIL.COM OR CALL: 706-692-6322

Finding Home: Finally

By Chris Rumble

"I gotta get well in time for your play this weekend," Mom declared from her bed in the emergency room at Piedmont Mountainside Hospital.

"You will, Mom." I replied. "No doubt!"

She had always bounced back. Her desire to be at my play was so sweet, especially since she was nearly blind, and her hearing was almost as bad.

Two days later, she was surrounded by all four of her sons and daughters-in-law and many grandchildren. **As she left us, we sang her into glory.**

She, without question, did not want to go. We were all together in one room. She knew it would be the last time on earth that she would be with all four of her boys. She did not want that to end.

On the opening night of "Bus Stop" - two days later - my Director Becca Hogue shared with the audience how I had lost my mother during the week leading up to the show. She then announced that the opening night performance was being dedicated to Mom.

I cannot express how deeply I was moved.

So, for my first performance on stage in a full theatrical play, Mom was there.

Only this time, she could clearly see every little nuance of expression on her little boy's face and hear the slightest modulation of inflection in his voice.

I related this story to my friends on social media. My friend Robin Waterfall commented: "I am sure she gathered all her friends who went before her around to watch, as well, as she bragged about you!"

For Mom, nothing brought her more pride and more joy; nothing was EVER more important than FAMILY.

Someone this past week wondered aloud about her first moments in heaven. Please don't judge me. I certainly don't presume to know how the queue line in heaven works.

My Mom was a faithful, outspoken Christian. Many Christians of her ilk feel that a believer's first moments on the other side of this earthly existence involve running to see Jesus as the top priority.

Would you mind if I use my imagination for a moment?

Her first stop - whatever it took - was to fall into my father's arms. She ran to him as fast as her new legs would carry her. And my father met her, running just as fast.

They collided in an explosion of pure, shimmering love. Dad held her as she wept for joy. But my dad knows her all too well. Mingled with her joy, her tears carried a hint of sorrow, as well. And he understood.

So, he pulled her even closer. "Honey, what we think of as time is different here," he whispered. "The boys will be here before you know it."

The more sanctimonious in heaven looked at Jesus as if they couldn't believe that she would go to Dad first.

Jesus smiled and said, *"Dear ones! That's my Anne. That's the way I wired her, and she makes me smile! Besides, she spoke to me, cried out to me, sat in my presence and enjoyed my Spirit living inside her every day. Meanwhile, she hasn't seen Hollis for 22 years. Let her be. She is right where she is supposed to be."*

During her last 24 hours, Mom was kept alive by, among other measures, a BiPAP machine which forces oxygen into a person's system. It causes their cheeks to expand with each push, contorting the face. The BiPAP makes it very difficult to talk as there is only space enough for one word between gusts of oxygen. It is very intrusive and can be disorienting and even scary to someone coming out of sedation. This was the case for Mom. We tried every means of calming her down: encouraging her, asking her what she needed, reading scripture and even making small talk, perhaps in an attempt to normalize what was going on.

Singing seemed to have the most calming effect.

I said, "Remember when you used to sing me to sleep?"

She was finally beginning to relax.

I leaned over her, stroked her hair and said, "Mom, I am proud of you."

She worked with all her might to give her response:

"I...am...proud...of...you!"

"I love you, Mom."

She responded as loudly as she could.

"I...love...YOU!"

"I...LOVE...YOU!"

"I...LOVE...YOU!"

In her attempt to make sure she covered everyone in the room, she continued this emphatic declaration of her love until she had no more to give.

We celebrated Anne Rumble's life on Monday, March 4, 2024. It would have been her 91st birthday. We sang and cried and worshiped and hugged and laughed together.

But, mostly, we laughed together. And we did so uproariously, with our heads thrown back.

Just the way Mom wanted it.

May we live our lives in such a way that it will be second nature to Find Home in making sure those closest to us know how much we love them, even with our last, dying breath.

Bent Tree Realty
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Call Cathy at 770-617-8426, Chris at 770-617-8381 or our office at 770-893-2629, ext 103
Let's get started on something amazing!

Bent Tree april community



**17 WEDNESDAY
AROUND THE WORLD**



**TUESDAY
TRIVIA**



**28 SUPER
BRUNCH**

01 TAMARACK TREASURES DONATIONS COLLECTION

10:30-11:30 Admin building

CINCO DE MAYO DANCE REGISTRATION

Ticket Sales begin for the Quarterly Dance to be held on May 3. Tickets are \$20 per couple and may be made at the front desk of admin. Dance lessons will be provided by "Dance2D'Tempo, LLC" The dance will be May 3rd from 6-8:30 in the Recreation Room. Bring a dish to share. Event Organizer: benttreeactivities@gmail.com

03 SENIOR'S BINGO

2:00 - 4:00pm Club Tamarack Rec Room

06 LAKE AND WILDLIFE NATIVE SURVIVAL PLANTS

9:30 Club Tamarack Rec Room

TAMARACK TREASURES DONATION COLLECTION

10:30-11:30 Club Tamarack Rec Room

CHRIS FELDT HISTORY TALK & BOOK SIGNING

4:00-6:00 Fireside lounge

08 TAMARACK TREASURES DONATION COLLECTION

10:30-11:30 Admin building

10 HANGING BASKET PICK UP

10:00-12:00 The Cottage for anyone who pre-ordered. If you are unable to pick them up at this time, please text or call MaryAda Kidd @386.212.4277 to make other arrangements.

13 FALLS PREVENTION CLASS

8:00-12:00 Club Tamarack Rec Room

MGA MEMBER/MEMBER

9:00 Best Ball of the twosome. 90% Handicap

SPRING BARN CLEAN

10:00-1:00 Stables. Volunteers needed

RECURRING EVENTS

MONDAY

Bible Study: 6:30 at Club Tamarack Fireside Building community through bible learning, application and fellowship. This group is open to men, women, singles, couples and the curious. We also have a time for sharing and prayer. Contact David and Pattie Jones, dpjones_2000@yahoo.com 803-795-9566.

Picnic: April through October 5:00 at the Beach Pavilion Bring a dish to share, your tableware and beverages. Social hour starts at 5:00. The picnic begins at 6:00. Contact Denis Foerst: dfoerst@gmail.com

Advanced Bridge: 12:45 - 4:00 at the Cottage Contact Debbie Ford at 770-490-3248 abcford@gmail.com

Bookworms: 3rd Monday of each month 10:30 at the Cottage Men, women, guests, kindle readers, and traditional book lovers! All are invited. People share their love, likes and dislikes of the books they have read throughout the month. Contact Maureen Huntington at 770-893-3552 btreespirit@etcmail.com

Pilates: 11:30 at Club Tamarack Rec Room \$5/class Instructor Karen Rooker is a certified Personal Trainer and a Certified Pilates Instructor with 30 years of experience Contact Karen Rooker at 214-475-9722 Krooker2749@sbeglobal.net

TUESDAY

Duplicate Bridge: 12:45 - 4:00 at the Cottage Contact Debbie Ford at 770-490-3248 abcford@gmail.com

Cricut Crafts & More: Rec Room at Club Tamarack **First Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm** This crafty group focuses on how to use a Circuit machine with monthly projects that teaches different skills. The group also works on various seasonal crafts. Contact: Mary Davis at mcdavis@live.com 404-213-2196

Knit Wits: 10:00 at Club Tamarack Fireside If you like to knit, quilt, crochet, or do any other types of needle crafts, KnitWits is for you. If you are just learning or having difficulty with a project, come to Knitwits where there will probably be someone to help! Contact: Carol Kopetsky at kopetskic Carol@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY

Bridge Review/Lessons: 1:00 - 3:00 at the Cottage Contact Debbie Ford at 770-490-3248 abcford@gmail.com

Guitar Instructions: 5:30 and 6:30 at Club Tamarack Fireside Beginning guitar lessons are the perfect opportunity to discover the joy of playing the beautiful instrument. Bent Tree resident, Randy White teaches individual or small group lessons. Contact Randy White at 770 - 608 - 0843

Pilates: 9:30 & 11:30 at Club Tamarack Rec Room \$5/class. Instructor Karen Rooker is a certified Personal Trainer and a Certified Pilates Instructor with 30 years of experience Contact Karen Rooker at 214-475-9722 Krooker2749@sbeglobal.net

calendar

17 WEDNESDAY AROUND THE WORLD

5:30 - 8:00 We'll tour Greece, Cypress and Turkey- The Aegean States- at the Tavern from. Price is \$24 per guest. Reservations required. 770-893-2621

20 SPECIALTY RIDE - EXPERIENCED RIDERS

3:00-6:00 The Stables. Reservations required. 706-692-6322

26 SUNSET MUSIC

6:30-9:30 Lower Pool Deck Shine on southern style with award winning artist and songwriter Kirk Thomas. Limited tables and chairs available.

TAMARACK TREASURES

Shop Tamarack Treasures and listen to "Music on the Deck" 6-9pm Club Tamarack.

27 TAMARACK TREASURES

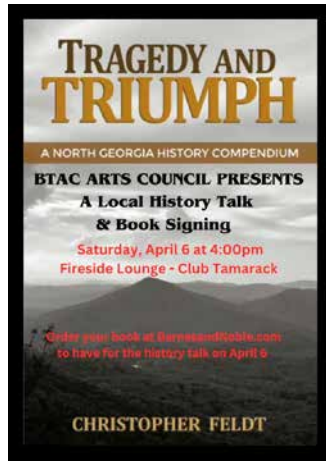
Invite Friends & Family to SHOP Tamarack Treasures 9am-2pm Club Tamarack.

28 SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday Brunch at Club Tamarack between 10:30 AM and 2 PM. Pricing is \$24 for adults, \$13 for 6-12 year's old and free for 5 and under

TAMARACK TREASURES

50% off of already wonderful prices at Tamarack Treasures 1pm-3pm.



SUBMIT YOUR KEY ADS MONTHLY FOR CONSIDERATION. PLEASE SUBMIT ADS AND CALENDAR DATES BY THE 7TH OF EACH MONTH WITH THE SUBJECT LINE "ECHO CALENDAR" TO TAREEDARBY@BENT-TREE.COM

outside the gates

COMING IN MAY

THURSDAY

Bridge Party: 6:30 - 9:30 pm at the Cottage Contact Debbie Ford at 770-490-3248 abcford@gmail.com

Bent Tree Strings/Dulcimers: Fireside Lounge at Club Tamarack Thursdays from 2:00pm until 3:30pm The mountain dulcimer ensemble meets to perform traditional Appalachian dulcimer folk music. Contact Marlin Ferrell at mferrell77@earthlink.net

Men's Bible Study: 9:00 at the Cottage This men's group focuses on a non-denominational study of God's word. Studies exist of both book- 10-book study and topical study. Time is spent sharing the Word and discussing where one can apply it to their lives. All men are welcome! Contact Bryan George (931) 982-0978 begee11@gmail.com

Bunco: 3rd Thursday of the month 6:00 at Club Tamarack Dining Room Play starts at 6:30. Bunco is played at Tables of 4. All are welcome but RSVP in advance is required. Bring \$5 for the pot, and an appetizer, dessert or beverage to share. RSVP to: btacbunco@gmail.com

Qi Gong: 4:30 at Club Tamarack Rec Room. \$5/class Qi Gong (chi gong) is an ancient practice to promote and maintain optimum health. It consists of slow and easy movements, breathing techniques and mental focus. It can be practiced seated or standing up. Contact Instructor Liisa Pasila at 561-236-2633 liisapasila@yahoo.com

FRIDAY

Women's Bible Study: 9:00 at Club Tamarack Rec Room This women's group provides opportunities for Scripture based studies done in 6-7 week sessions. A time of sharing and prayer is an integral part of each meeting. Purchase of study materials is optional. During the summer months meetings are less formal and begin at 10:00. Contact Dale Newman 678-438-0971or dalene@14@gmail.com

TRIVIA EVERY TUESDAY AT THE TAVERN! RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

Celebrating Bent Tree Roots: Luke List Reflects on Childhood Memories and PGA Journey

By Taree Darby

In an exclusive interview with professional golfer Luke List, we journeyed through the pivotal moments that shaped his illustrious career, from his early years at Bent Tree to his triumphs on the PGA Tour. Luke graciously shared his insights, memories, and aspirations, offering a glimpse into the heart of a champion.

Reflecting on his early years at Bent Tree, Luke fondly recounted his introduction to golf at the age of seven in 1992 when moving to Georgia. “It started with just riding along on the cart with my Grandpa, just wanting to be with him,” Luke reminisced. What began as quality time with family soon blossomed into a deep passion for the sport. Luke’s journey in golf progressed from local tournaments to Southeastern and regional competitions, laying the foundation for his future success. Luke’s grandfather, Robert Brown, was very active in the golf community here in Bent Tree and resided here until moving down to Jasper. He passed away this January at the age of 91 after “a good run,” said Luke. Luke’s father, Mark List, an All-American swimmer, was also known in Bent Tree by many as a friend and home builder. To say Luke’s roots run deep in Bent Tree is an understatement.

Luke showcased his golfing prowess at Vanderbilt University, where he excelled on the collegiate circuit. His notable achievements include a runner-up finish in the 2004 US Amateur Championship, which earned him a coveted spot in the prestigious 2005 Masters tournament, where he impressively secured a tied 33rd position. Following his graduation from Vanderbilt in 2007, Luke swiftly transitioned to the professional ranks.



Joining the Nationwide Tour in 2010 marked a turning point in Luke’s career. His early success in junior golf and college had him hopeful and then led to a bit of discouragement by the Nationwide Tour because of the time it was taking. But it was at that time that he felt “solidified in the right direction”.

The victory at the South Georgia Classic in 2012 was a pivotal moment that propelled Luke’s confidence and career trajectory. “It was cool,” Luke remarked “that it happened in Georgia.”

Luke’s remarkable power and accuracy on the course have been central to his success. “The game is evolving into a dynamic, youthful, powerful game,” Luke explained. “I’ve had to work hard to stay at that level”, focusing on fitness and injury prevention. Luke spends gym and physio time keeping his body healthy and mentioned that he’s lucky to have not had any significant swing related injuries that can be so common. He plans on chasing “the young kids around” as long as he can.

Despite setbacks, including losing his PGA Tour card, Luke approached challenges with resilience and determination. “You learn more from your failures” Luke reflected. Those tough times led him to California in late 2013, where he relocated for a new coach and met his wife, Chloe in 2014, “reshaping my career direction.” He has since moved back to Georgia with his wife and children. His daughter Ryann is five, and he has a son, Harrison who is two.



Luke’s crowning moment on the PGA Tour unfolded in 2022 when he clinched victory at the Farmers Insurance Open, triumphing over Will Zalatoris in a thrilling playoff. His first PGA Tour victory was a moment of validation and celebration. “To be playing on the tour consistently at that point, you think you’ll have more chances than you have.” Luke shared. “Winning was a big validation, and to have friends and family there, on a course I like, made it really special.”

continued on next page



Looking ahead, Luke remains focused on progress and future successes. He's excited about upcoming tournaments and continuing to improve. He had a nice fall season in 2023, and though there have been a couple of recent hiccups, his goal is to keep pushing forward and enjoying the journey.

I asked Luke if he had any advice for up-and-coming golfers like Cooper Smith, and he reminisced on an experience he had with his father that resonated with him. "I'll never forget I was playing in a Jr. tournament when I was 10 or 11. I was paired with an older player, probably 17, in the practice round. My dad was picking his brain, and his advice was to play in as many competitive tournaments as you can." Luke advises to "test yourself against better players" as much as you can and to find enjoyment in competing and playing tournaments. Of course, "play as much golf as you can."

In our conversation, Luke shared invaluable insights into his journey from Bent Tree to PGA success. When asked about Bent Tree and its significance to him, Luke described it as "such a special community that I still feel connected to." He recounted fond memories of his time here, recalling encounters with his grandfather's peers, who were "incredible golfers" and served as early influences on his game, along with names many of us still remember such as Rick Frye and Russel Smith. Luke reflected on the impact of these experiences, noting that they "formed my early view of golf." He reminisced about picking up range balls in the woods and enjoying late afternoons in the summers of Bent Tree, evoking a shared sentiment of nostalgia for the Bent Tree's warm embrace. Don't we all love a summer afternoon in our little slice of paradise? Expressing gratitude for the support he received during his younger years, Luke acknowledged the role Bent Tree, and its people, played in shaping his love for golf and his career. Luke and his family visited Jasper upon his grandfather's passing, but did not make it into Bent Tree. Luke expressed his intention to bring his own children to "share with them where it all started" as they grow older.

As Luke List continues to inspire and excel, his journey serves as a testament to the power of passion, perseverance, and the profound impact of our community's roots. We're lucky to have such a wonderful course and neighbors to play with.

Get Ready for Youth Fest 2024

by Susan Kahn

Now is the time to plan summer fun for your children and grandchildren. Youth Fest will begin on Sunday, June 30th with a Kick-Off Dinner at the beach pavilion. There will be fun for the whole family! This year's events include oldies but goodies, as well as new ones for all ages. Events will conclude on Friday, July 5th, with the Pinewood Derby. Registration begins on May 6th and ends on May 24th. The preview of events and registration information will be available on the Bent Tree website in April.



Savoring April at the Tavern: A Journey of Flavor and Fun

As spring blooms and the golf greens beckon, April at the Tavern promises a delightful blend of culinary adventures and excitement. Whether you're coming right off the greens, back from a hike, swinging in from off the courts, or even a nice day on the lake, there's something for everyone at the Tavern this April.

On Wednesday, April 17th, we invite you to join us for an unforgettable culinary journey through the Aegean Regions: Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey. From 5:30 to 8:00 PM, our chefs will tantalize your taste buds with the vibrant flavors of the Mediterranean. Indulge in traditional dishes and regional specialties, all expertly crafted to transport you to sun-drenched shores. The price for this culinary adventure is \$24 per guest.

And mark your calendars for Sunday, April 28th, as we bring back our beloved Sunday Brunch at Club Tamarack. From 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM, gather with friends and family to enjoy a sumptuous spread of brunch favorites amidst the beauty of our mountains. Adults dine for \$24, while children aged 6-12 join us for \$13. Little ones aged 5 and under eat free. Don't forget to enhance your experience with our bottomless mimosa and bloody mary bar add-on for just \$13.

Discover the magic of April at the Tavern—a feast for the senses and a celebration of springtime in the mountains.

Experience the Tavern. Discover Mountain Living.



Omelet from the omelet station, freshly sliced goodness from the carving station, and more!



Perfect setting for Mimosas and Peaches & Cream French Toast

It's Nearly Here

TAMARACK TREASURES BOUTIQUE

FRIDAY 4/26 - SUNDAY 4/28

FRIDAY 6 - 9 PM

SHOP EARLY WHILE ENJOYING MUSIC ON THE DECK

SATURDAY 9AM-2 PM

INVITE FRIENDS & FAMILY TO THIS AMAZING EVENT

SUNDAY 1 - 3 PM

ONE DAY ONLY - IT'S ALL 1/2 PRICE!

SHOP GREAT BUYS ON HOME DECOR, HOUSEWARES, ACCESSORIES, OUTDOOR GEAR, BOOKS/GAMES/PUZZLES, ART & TASTY BAKED GOODS

NEW THIS SALE: NATURAL BEGINNINGS - providing planting education, native plants and items for the garden!

See you there!

THE TAVERN
Bent Tree
At The 19th Hole

Wednesdays
around the world

APR 17

AEGEAN REGIONS: GREECE, CYPRUS, AND TURKEY

Inaugural Winter Ball. What a Beautiful Evening!

by Shelia Hedgpeth

Dressed in their finest Bent Treers gathered in a Club Tamarack that was transformed to an enchanted forest, dined on a marvelous meal and danced and danced and danced! There were cuddly couples, twirls and swirls and even a kick line. Twinkling winter trees embraced all and the sounds of Tommy Ward and his orchestra shook the lit up rafters to the crowds delight.

The servers were appropriately attired for the occasion and delivered a marvelous meal as chosen by each guest. From French Brick Chicken and Seared Tri Tips to the Crème Brulee it was delicious from start to finish. The wine was flowing and paired perfectly while the full bar served any one's desire.

Amid the laughter and smiles there were hugs and conversations displaying a treasured sense of community. And then the photo ops with the glorious sunset as the backdrop! That's what BTAC Special Events is all about! Many thanks go to our dedicated group of volunteers that created the amazing atmosphere: Lea McMillan, Bill McNulty, Lynn House, Conner Hedgpeth, Cheryl Roster Lynch, and our hostess Sandra Stewart. What an amazing event. I will hear the voices for a long time from the many guests that ending the splendid evening with shout outs...What fun! Let's do it again!



Off to a Roaring Start

By Patrick McMorro

Our Senior Activities are off to a roaring start in our inaugural year. There have been three wonderful events that have kicked off this year already: BINGO in January, the Valentine's Day afternoon Tea Party, and a St. Patrick's Day themed movie matinee. Also, on April 3rd BINGO will be held again at Club Tamarack. Our plan is to host fun social events each month.

Speaking of roaring successes! I believe that anyone who attended, worked, or volunteered at the Valentine's afternoon Tea Party would tell you what a fantastic party it was! I would like to thank all the many volunteers that helped make our Seniors Valentine Afternoon Tea Party so special! The idea of a Tea Party would not have happened without the creativity, drive, passion, and leadership from Kim Stewart! Our super amazing volunteer group of Carol Carlsen, DeEtta Daily, Denise McCabe, Lea KanakarismcMillan, Karen Rooker, and Sandra Stewart helped ensure the event went off without a hitch. Thanks to our fabulous ushers who made our guests feel welcomed and loved the minute they walked into the building. A BIG thanks to Andrew and Mary Ada Kidd who played the piano and flute. They were joined by LuAnn Chambers who sang a few songs. Special thanks to Chef Michael and his staff for their preparation and excellent service.

We asked our guests to fill out a survey to better understand what activities they would likely want to participate in. We had 30 anonymous surveys completed at the event. The #1 choice was BINGO, #2 was a Christmas Luncheon at the Tate House, #3 was going outside the gates to enjoy dinner and a show/theatre and 4th was visiting Gibbs Gardens. We will build these activities into the 2024 calendar.

Finally, thank you to the 49 beautiful residents who participated in this memorable event!

I would like to remind everyone that ALL Senior Activities are open to ALL Residents. However, our goal is to reach those residents 70+ who may



not be able to take advantage of the many Bent Tree Activities Committee events that are typically held in the evening. Many of us know residents that would enjoy the activities that this committee is hosting. Please reach out to those neighbors or friends and invite them. Even better invite and offer to drive them to an event you believe they would enjoy.

What's Next

Senior Activities are planning a wonderful afternoon at Gibbs Gardens on May 22nd. May is a beautiful time to visit Gibbs Gardens when many flowers are in bloom. Gibbs Gardens' Seasons of Color are a feast for the senses any time of year. Gibbs Garden is a 336-acre estate garden, with 250+ acres of artistically landscaped gardens surrounded by majestic forest, spring-fed ponds, streams, waterfalls, and bridge crossings. In all there are 24 ponds, 32 bridge crossings, and 19 waterfalls. This will be a self-guided walking tour with plenty of benches along the way to rest and enjoy the natural beauty. Please note that the Tram is no longer available to tour the gardens.

I would encourage folks to carpool. If interested, plan to meet at the administration parking lot at 12pm. Tickets can be purchased at the welcome center and are \$25 for adults 64 or younger and \$18 for seniors 65+. Annual membership is \$60. You can also save time by buying your ticket in advance online.

Let's plan to gather near the Harbor Café for lunch. The Harbor Café has salads, sandwiches, snacks and drinks. No outside food or drinks, except water, are permitted.

I hope you can make it! Looking forward to seeing you there!

Come See The Kitties!

By Veda L. Wohlford, Photos by Veda L. Wohlford

Still thinking about adopting one of the great kitties we have at the Bent Tree Animal Shelter? We still have a passel of pussycats to choose from. Wouldn't you like to come see these cutie pies?

Remember, all our cats and dogs are fully vetted medically and spayed or neutered before being eligible for adoption. Ready to come by and see these Kittie Cuties? Bent-Tree's Animal Shelter has so many kitties available for adoption, kitties of all personalities, shapes, and sizes, and all of them just want a fur-ever home with you and your family! If you would like to visit any of our kitties to see if you're a match made in heaven, please contact LuAnn Chambers at 678.414.1047.



Jesse is rapidly becoming a favorite of mine. This tiny little baby spent the entire time rubbing on my feet, or grabbing my ankle to play. So sleek, so shiny, so sweet!



Reba and Dolly look very similar, but they couldn't be more different! While they are both lovely little ladies, Reba is a little more outgoing, such a sweet little baby!



Dolly is a little more shy than Reba, but has such beautiful markings. And once she's sniffed you out, then she's cool to be loved on...trust me!



Another beauty available for adoption is Callie, this beautiful Calico. She likes to observe whatever is going on at the shelter from her high perch!



I was so happy to snap this photo of Bunco playing through the gate with Honey! They kept pawing at one another, saying howdy!

Hoppy Spring Everyone! It's Not Too Late!

By Ellie Girard

By the time you're reading this, we will have already had our opening breakfast/meeting.....and perhaps played one golf event. BUT, it's not too late! If you aren't yet a member, please consider joining this fabulous group of ladies for some fun times. Each week is a new game followed by an enjoyable time of food and fellowship.

You will find entry forms in the ladies' locker room. Just grab one, fill it out and return it along with your check or cash for the \$45 entry fee per the instructions given.

Also, I want to mention the return of the LOVELY LADIES golf group who once again will be meeting every Tuesday at one o'clock. Everyone is welcome, and you don't need to sign up, just show up. Playing with the Lovely Ladies helps with the building up your handicap. Of course, always remember to post every score!

See you on the course!

Hike DeSoto State Park Trails

By Elden Bonnette

The Bent Tree Hiking Club April 2024 hiking event is at DeSoto State Park located near Fort Payne Alabama atop Lookout Mountain. The event is an overnighiter scheduled for April 24, 2024. The park offers rooms at the Lodge, rustic and log cabins, chalets and camping accommodations. Twelve Lodge rooms have been blocked for the Hiking Club at a special rate of \$93.50 plus tax per night for a 2 Queen room. If preferred, the cabins are available at individual negotiated rates. Reservations can be made by calling the Lodge at 256-845-5437 (Paige Smith) for Group Reservation # 13168.

DeSoto State Park, a two-hour drive from Bent Tree, is in the Central Time zone. Planned hikes for the 24th are the Boardwalk Trail in the morning, the Lost Falls Trail in the afternoon and the nearby Cabin/Chalet trail the next morning. Happy Hour on the 24th on the Lodge patio to be followed by dinner at Southern Harvest, a farm to table type restaurant located a few minutes from the Lodge.

The area offers many other attractions including Little River Canyon National Preserve, DeSoto Falls, a Country Store and Nature Center, a Civilian Conservation Corps Museum and local shopping in Fort Payne and Mentone Alabama.

Make your reservations now. Directions and further information will be provided to attendees. Contact hike coordinators Elden Bonnette (404-313-7517) (eldenbonnette@tds.net) or Linda Bonnette (404-313-7525) (lindabonnette@tds.net) for more information or questions.

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Day Tripping – Wine, Whimsy and Why Not?

By Lynn Kaiser Conrad

The climate and topography make north Georgia an ideal locale for growing grapes, American bunch grapes, to be exact. If grapes are properly cared for and protected against disease and parasites, a vine can produce up to 30 pounds of fruit. Roughly 30 pounds of grapes will yield 1.5 gallons of wine. In north Georgia, the grapes must be grown high on the hillside, not in the valley where cold air can settle and stagnate, and that hillside needs to benefit from hours of direct sunlight.

This area is ripe with homegrown wineries. For a relaxing afternoon with friends, family, or by yourself, visit a local hillside.

Cairn View Winery in Jasper is locally owned and operated by the same folks who own and run the Bent Tree Lodge & Vineyard. This winery offers a full spectrum of flavors to suit any palette, as well as some food items, so you won't drink on an empty stomach. You can join their wine club and benefit from discounts. For those who enjoy entertainment while they sip wine, pay attention to their calendar of events on their website.

299 Happy Trails Way, Jasper, GA. www.cairnviewwinery.com

Pack a picnic and plan an afternoon gazing at Sharp Mountain while sipping a variety of 12 wines made from handpicked grapes at Sharp Mountain Vineyards. The pavilion provides shelter for the live music performances. If you're lucky, and it's a clear day, you may be able to see the Atlanta skyscape and Stone Mountain from this picturesque setting. If you're interested in volunteering to help pick grapes during the harvest in August, watch their calendar to sign up in July.

110 Rathgeb Trail, Jasper, GA sharpmountainvineyards.com

A fainting goat is a real thing. The Tennessee Fainting goat is uniquely an American type of goat. The goats have a hereditary condition called myotonia congenita, which affects skeletal muscles, causing a stiff leg effect. To see a fainting goat in person head over to Fainting Goat Vineyards & Winery. These adorable, friendly, and curious creates are on site for visitors' enjoyment. While you are there, enjoy wine made from grapes grown on the hillside that are crushed and fermented by the local owners. In addition to tasting their wines, guests can schedule a tour or participate in other events.

20 Vineyard Way, Jasper, GA faintinggoatvineyardandwinery.com

There are several other wineries within an easy drive of Jasper. Enotourism or vinitourism, which relates to tourists' activities where one tastes, consumes, or purchases wine at or near the source, is growing in this area. Be a tourist for a day.



Atlanta, GA - Raise a glass to Georgia wine! Senator Gooch of District 51 led the sponsorship of a resolution to make March 2024 Georgia Wine Month. Senate Resolution 511 was officially passed on February 26, 2024, and recognizes the history, achievements, and economic impact of the Georgia wine industry. **Pictured: left to right bottom row:** Eric Miller, Yonah Mountain Vineyards/ Georgia Wine and Grape Commission, Jane Miller, Yonah Mountain Vineyards/ President of Georgia Wine Producers, Sam Zamarripa, Dog Hobbles Vineyards/ Georgia Wine and Grape Commission, Senator Steve Gooch **Second row:** Taree Darby, past Executive Director Georgia Wine Producers, Bill Cox, Cox Vineyards/Vice President Georgia Wine Producers, Senator Bo Hatchett the floor leader, Lt Governor Burt Jones. **Third row:** Tristen Vanhoff, Accent Cellars/ Board Member Georgia Wine Producers.



Fainting Goat Vineyards, Jasper



Cairn View Winery, right outside our gates!



Sharp Mountain Vineyards, Jasper



Canoe Vineyard & Winery, Talking Rock

The Joy House is restoring teenager's lives!

By Patrick McMorrow

I assume many of our Bent Tree residents know something about the Joy House. For those who know little about the Joy House, The Joy House is a residential program for struggling teens and their families to provide hope and healing through Christ. The Joy House helps the teen grow spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, socially, and physically. This care is systematically integrated daily among their houseparents, counselors, and teachers with the ultimate goal of seeing both the teen and family healed, restored and reunified.

The Joy House, which is right outside the gates to Bent Tree on Cove Road, operates 3 beautiful homes. There are two girls' homes and one boy's home which can house up to 21 teens. Each home has houseparents who serve as mom and dad to these High School aged teenagers while they are in the program. Joy House offers an accredited High School with a principal and teachers on staff. The residents also participate in individual weekly counseling sessions.

Each year the Joy House hosts an annual fundraiser at the Mill at Sharp Top Cove at the Young Life Camp. If you would like to learn more about the Joy House and the amazing work it is doing in our local community, please join me on April 23rd at 5:30pm at the Mill. Call or text Patrick McMorrow at 770-710-1133 for more information or to register.

I have had the privilege of volunteering as the physical fitness instructor for the boys at the Joy House since April 2023. This honor provides me with a unique opportunity to mentor these boys while playing sports, fishing, hiking and swimming. Recently the boys participated in a unique program designed by public safety here at Bent Tree. The goal of the program was to provide career exposure to the Fire Services, Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services. Like many high school boys their future is unclear. This program provided insight and hands on experience into what these fulfilling careers might look like.

Congratulations to Public Safety Director Michael Koorey, Assistant Chief Hawkins, Lieutenant Childers, Fire Chief Donnie Arp and Officer Logan Thomas for taking time out of their busy schedules to provide the Joy House boys with some exciting and rewarding career possibilities.



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Memorial Garden Bench for Tori

By Michele Shaeffer

In a heartfelt tribute to the beloved Tori (or Tor Tor as known by her family Ron & Jane Russell and Shaun & Shea Leacock) Bent Tree Memorial Garden along with her family proudly unveiled a new memorial bench dedicated to her memory. Situated amidst the serene beauty of the garden, the bench serves as a timeless homage to a cherished individual whose presence left an indelible mark on the hearts of many.

Tori/Tor Tor's legacy of kindness, warmth, and compassion resonates deeply within the community, making the placement of this bench not only a symbolic gesture but also a tangible reminder of her enduring impact. Whether it was through her contagious laughter, comforting words, or unwavering support, Tori/Tor Tor touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Surrounded by flourishing greenery and the water falls, the memorial bench offers a tranquil sanctuary for reflection and remembrance. It stands as a testament to the enduring bonds of friendship and the profound influence of Tori/Tor Tor's spirit, which continues to inspire and uplift those who visit the garden.

As visitors pause to pay their respects, the bench becomes a sacred space where memories are cherished, stories are shared, and the essence of Tori/Tor Tor lives on. Each moment spent in quiet contemplation serves as a tribute to a life well-lived and a soul deeply loved.

In the tranquil embrace of Bent Tree Memorial Garden, the legacy of Tori/Tor Tor finds eternal rest, surrounded by the beauty she cherished and the love she inspired. May this memorial bench stand as a beacon of light, guiding future generations to embrace kindness, embrace community, and honor the profound impact of those who have graced our lives.



The Roads: we must find our way!

By Miguel Rodriguez – 423-779-6727

Hands down, our priority number one is the water supply; without discussion, anything and everything that is needed to keep the water supply working, and working continuously and safely, comes second to none. Priority number two is security; we have a very reassuring level of security provided by our current Public Service team. And then comes number three: the roads! All over the world, and certainly here in the USA, there are two key parameters that appraises any piece of property: location and access. You may own Paradise but, if the access to that Paradise is inadequate or sub-par, you have a devalued Paradise.

Many of us consider Bent Tree our own version of Paradise (the people around us contribute largely to that sentiment); our location is second to none; but our roads are an abomination! On top of the fact that they are very curvy, with very pronounced inclines, and some of them very narrow (two golf carts cannot fit side by side) they feature a healthy number of potholes, and they are – for the most part – unmarked! Add to that the complete absence of guard rails and the frequency of our foggy nights and we are looking at tragedies waiting to happen, with the foreseeable financial impact to all of us (even if we had adequate insurance).

I know we are making a valiant effort to identify new sources of revenue that could contribute to funding the work needed on the roads; I applaud and support that and yet, in my opinion, we must do more, lots more on a quicker and bigger scale! As I understand it, we have 55 miles of roads here inside Bent Tree; if we stipulate a cost of about \$300K per mile for paving, that puts us at close to \$17M. Even if we were to allocate \$1M/year for road services (which, as per the budget conversations, is not feasible without serious neglect of other areas) we are looking at 17 years to bring all our roads to good standing; most of us will not be around that long!

We need to look for alternative ways to attack this issue, and I am about to offer one that, although deemed undesirable by many, is a financial tool commonly used by hundreds of millions of people the world over: we must borrow the needed money!

I know that for many of my neighbors the fact that Bent Tree operates debt free is a source of pride and, most of all, peace of mind. I share that sentiment; I live debt free. It is also a fact that many of us, at one point or another in our lives, have sought and secured credit to further our plans (a business venture, or business expansion), or improve our quality of life (a house, a car, etc.). I believe we are at that type of juncture at Bent Tree: we must seek and secure credit to improve the quality of our roads and, therefore, preserve or enhance the value of our properties and to preserve our quality of life.

In summary, we have the location as designed by Mother Nature and selected by the founders of Bent Tree; water, security, and the roads are up to us to provide and maintain and are of utmost importance for maintaining property values. We are doing well in two out of three. We can do better!

Camino Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela

By Peggi Hunt

Our Camino first unfolded from the viewing of Martin Sheen and his son, Emilio Estevez, in the movie “The Way”, which chronicles a father and his connection to his son. It was his son’s dream to walk the Camino, which he did not understand at all. The faith-based message that director Estevez wanted audiences to take away from “The Way” was that we don’t live alone. We live in a community. The movie is about connecting living your life in a way that is contributive. You are making a conscious decision to be out in the world meeting fellow pilgrims on the same path doing the same thing you are.

The commonly agreed-upon route for El Camino de Santiago (also known as The Way of St. James) begins at Saint Jean Pied de Port, France and travels 500 miles ending at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Vinnie Zaccheo and I traversed 86 miles off the Camino in Spain. We started in Baiona, Spain and walked north to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Baiona is a beautiful old coastal tourist town which led us to the port town of Vigo with its splendid views and long, fine sandy beaches. Further north we came to Pontevedra, the ancient capital of Galicia. We had our rest day in this scenic city, spending the day exploring plus we got a small reprieve from walking 15+ miles a day. The last leg cut inland through woodlands toward small villages and hamlets including Vilaboa and Caldes de Reis, which had soothing mineral springs to soak our weary feet. On to Lestrobe through meadows, pastures and grape orchards for one final night before our final destination of Santiago.

Our daily mileage went from 8.6 miles to three days of 17 miles each. The fun part every day was trying to figure out by foot where our hotel or B&B was after we were exhausted! We booked through a company that made our reservations for us and also transported our luggage to the next day’s lodging. So we only wore our daypacks while walking...hallelujah. We always ate breakfast where we spent the night with our fellow pilgrims and took off the next morning refreshed with full stomachs. Lunch was grabbed during the walk day and dinner was either at our hotel or a restaurant close by. YUM those Padron peppers and Spanish tapas!

The gorgeous scenery and fellow pilgrims with whom we walked and ate meals with were most definitely highlights. There were the four

girls from Canada who called each other by their respective cities they were from because for some reason it was easier to remember their cities than their names. So their “names” were Vancouver, Quebec, Toronto and Ottawa. There was the Spanish gentleman who insisted on carrying Vinnie’s bicycle over hills full of large boulders because, as he said, “The Camino is all about people helping people.” (The bike is another whole story in itself, and Vinnie ditched the bike after a couple of days and five times wiping out due to the difficult terrain.) There were the Irish couple, Australian couple and Denmark lady who we had a spirited dinner talk about each of our country’s politics and gun laws. I remember feeling much safer talking to them about my thoughts on these issues than I would be with folks here in the U.S. Refreshing and fun! There was the UK couple and German couple who we kept running into and also reconnecting with at the very end of our journey. What a special moment to have them to celebrate our accomplishment together.

The walk we did qualified us to receive a Compostela, which is a document that certifies we completed at least 62 miles on foot ending at the Cathedral of Santiago. In order to receive the Compostela, you must walk the Camino for religious or spiritual reasons, or an attitude of search. We carried a credential which we had to get stamped twice a day at churches, hotels or restaurants along The Way. It was interesting to see each unique stamp, which gave us further motivation to keep walking. Our 86 miles more than qualified us for this Compostela.

Last but certainly not least, at the end of our walk my Denmark friend said, “Peggi, this accomplishment is not in your feet. It is in your head.” Truer words were never spoken. We had numerous challenges too long for this article. Vinnie said many times that there was no way he could have completed this walk without divine help. We stopped in many small churches along The Way and prayed we could overcome our obstacles.

The Camino never leaves you. It changes you. It heals you. Fellow pilgrims give you a renewed sense of peace and hope for mankind. It makes you realize all the similarities we truly have with folks all around this wonderful world. And sometimes the simplest things like walking are the most restorative for us all.



Our view from Baiona....the start of our walk



The day after we reached our destination of Santiago Cathedral and picked up our coveted Compostelas



Our UK friends who we walked with to Santiago



We met up with our German friends again at the very end....all refreshed!

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