



theECHO

JULY 2025

**A BENT TREE
PUBLICATION**



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7:30am - 4:30pm
Lunch: 12pm to 1pm

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.



A Hub of Bent Tree...Welcome to the New 19th Hole

By Jim Pryor, General Manager

While Bent Tree has a lot of different elements that create the character of our community, there are technically 2 hubs that serve as community gathering spots. The 19th Hole is the area which encompasses the Golf Course and Tavern, and then there is Club Tamarack which features the Courts, Pools and Club building. Both hubs serve as multipurpose amenity areas for much of the community activity.

When developing the Community Vision Plan in 2023, the committee heavily discussed both hubs and the need for capital improvements for both of them. In a short-term plan, improvements to both were far more expensive than capital funding that was available. Therefore, the committee thought it best to focus on improving one of them first instead of just doing small projects on each of them. An initiative in the Vision Plan was created to focus on the 19th Hole specifically.

With the recent paving of the parking lot, I am proud to announce that the planned capital improvements to the 19th Hole have been completed. Let's take a look at what has been accomplished over the last 18 months:

- Expansion of the driving range
- Addition of the chipping practice green
- Addition of the Clock Tower
- Renovation of the Tavern Kitching and Dining area
- Expansion of the Tavern Bar
- Stamped Concrete Patio Dining Area at the Tavern
- ADA Parking Area
- ADA Access Ramp
- ADA push button entry door
- Addition of ADA Family Restroom
- New ADA compliant stairwell from Golf Pro Shop
- New hardy plank siding on the 19th hole building
- New gutters and downspouts on the 19th hole building
- New golf champions display board in the hallway
- Expansion, paving, and striping of the parking lot

Avid golfer Bob Foley left a legacy to Bent Tree through his bequeath to the Bent Tree Foundation. His donation substantially bolstered the golf practice facilities at the course, creating the



expansion of the driving range and the addition of the chipping green. The new clock in his honor provided great character to the aesthetics of our course. We are very blessed at Bent Tree to have all of our golf practice facilities within a short walk of the pro shop. If anyone has ever played golf at Big Canoe, you have to get into a cart and drive a great distance to their support practice facilities.

The ADA improvements to our facility serve multiple purposes. First, it lawfully makes access to our facility by all a possibility. This allows us to host tournaments and market the private pass program which both will help us bring in added revenue. Also, it allows our residents with physical constraints the ability to eat at The Tavern. The new stairway at the back of the building provides stability and safety for residents to navigate.

The dining atmosphere at The Tavern is far enhanced and the new bar expansion has received very positive feedback.

The 19th Hole building itself might not look much different, but the water damage, siding with rotted spots, and disintegrating insulation have been addressed and should prolong the facility for a long time. The new parking lot will enhance ingress/egress, parking issues, tripping concerns and traffic patterns.

While in the title I called it the "new 19th hole", we all know it's not new. It's the same building and facility that has been serving Bent Tree for over 50 years for the same purpose. Some have referred to it as lipstick on a pig. I, however, would like to take a more positive approach to the improvements furthering the access, safety, function, aesthetics, longevity and community pride of a building that serves as an amenity hub for many of our residents.



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ATLANTA

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Bent Tree Fireworks 2025

By Michael Koorey, Director of Safety and Emergency Management

This year, the Bent Tree fireworks display will take place at dark on Thursday, July 3rd. This celebration is conducted by vetted and trained professionals that have been contracted by Bent Tree. A tremendous amount of planning and safety measures are put in place to produce a great and safe show for all Bent Tree residents. We expect the fireworks display to be amazing this year.

Fireworks cause tens of thousands of injuries and fires each year, and we do not want anyone or anywhere in Bent Tree to become part of those statistics. Because of our community's terrain and foliage, the risk of a catastrophic fire resulting from fireworks is too great to allow them to be used by anyone other than trained professionals with proper controls in place. Page 15 of our Rules and Regulations states, "The use of fireworks within Bent Tree is prohibited by anyone other than BTCL or others contracted by BTCL." The fine for a violation of this rule is \$1,000 listed in the schedule of fines as a violation of the burning/fireworks policy.

A firework is a device for producing a striking display by the combustion of explosive or flammable compositions. This also includes anything that would produce a flame or spark (sparklers). There are many alternatives to these flame producing products that would be allowed, including "glow sticks" and LED sparklers. Please help keep our community safe by refraining from the use of fireworks and reporting firework activity to Bent Tree Safety and Emergency Management at 770-893-2628. Have a safe and happy Independence Day and enjoy the show!

Couples Night Out NINE & DINE

July 11th @ 4pm - \$60 per couple - \$40 for unlimited play members



sign up in the pro shop

Public Safety Stats from 5/1/25 – 5/31/25

By Michael Koorey - Director,
Donnie Arp - Fire Chief,
John Hawkins - Assistant Director

Call Responses

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Fire | 22 |
| Medical | 26 |
| Resident Complaints | 6 |
| Resident Assists | 5 |
| Property/Resident Checks | 1 |
| Animal Calls | 19 |
| Public Safety Calls | 40 |
| Total | 119 |
| 2025 Total | 470 |

Patrol Mileage

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Total Patrol Mileage (5/1 – 5/31) | 2,733 |
| 2025 Total | 10,214 |

Violations

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Written Citations | 26 |
| Warnings | 12 |
| Total (5/1 – 5/31) | 38 |
| 2025 Total Written Citations | 142 |

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



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Thanks.

echo Editorial Committee

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The Courts Committee Liaison

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

On the cover...

July cover by Judy Beeler.

June cover was by Christina Koontz.

CANDIDATE RESUMES for Board of Directors



Buddy Creef

86 Denny Ridge Rd

Lot CC3530

buddycreef@gmail.com

EDUCATION

VA Tech / BSEE

Blacksburg, VA

EXPERIENCE

January 2024 – Present

President. Bent Tree Board of Directors

January – December 2023

Member – Bent Tree Board of Directors

January 2021 – December 2022

Chair – Bent Tree Activities Committee

Also Served on Courts Committee and Communication Committee

WORK EXPERIENCE

Management primarily in Factory automation and Process Safety Industries

OBJECTIVE

Seeking second term on Bent Tree Board of Directors

Chair – Bent Tree Activities Committee

Also Served on Courts Committee and Communication Committee



Glen Harris

580 Tamarack Drive #20688

Lot# LP 275

Jasper, Ga. 30143

Harrisglen46@gmail.com

RESUME

My wife and I bought our house here in 2015 because of the beauty of Bent Tree, intending to be weekenders. Within a few months we decided to move here full-time because of the people. Living in a community with active, dedicated and involved neighbors takes me back to my roots growing up in a small, tightly knit town. I see service on the Board of Directors as a way of paying back Bent Tree for the privilege of living here

Education

Graduate, New Franklin, Mo., High School

Graduate, University of Missouri, School of Journalism

Professional Experience:

Reporter and editor for newspapers in Michigan, Connecticut and Georgia

Editor for a medical and health care publishing company, Atlanta

Bent Tree Experience: Resident 2016-present

June 2022 to December 2023: President, Bent Tree Board of Directors

January-June 2022: Secretary, Bent Tree Board of Directors

January 2018-20: Co-chair Lake and Wildlife Committee

2017: Trail Monitor, Lake and Wildlife

Work Experience

Ann Arbor News, Ann Arbor, Mich. 1968-83 Reporter, editor covering local governmental and political affairs

Hartford Courant, Hartford, Ct. 1983

continued on next page

CANDIDATE RESUMES for Board of Directors



CARON D. PECK, BA, RN
Lot #LPO139
810 Little Pine Mountain Road
Jasper, Georgia 30143

CAREER PROGRESSION

REGISTERED NURSE with a valid and current Georgia RN
LICENSE RN 31145 AND RECENT FINGERPRINT.

AGAPE HOSPICE

March 2024 to Present

Weekend RN On Call Hospice RN

Covering area from Elijay GA to Alpharetta depending on company
need.

Pronounce patients via VPS system, provide medication
administration and record visits in HCHB. Up to date in all Relias
training. Provide compassionate, end of life care and support to
families for hospice patients. Provide nursing services as appropriate
including wound care, catheter insertion, palliative support.

APPALACHIAN HOSPICE

September 2023 to March 2024

Case Manager for patients with terminal diseases with life
expectancy of 6 weeks or less. Responsible for admission through
death for case load of 14 patients in Pickens and Gilmore counties.
KanTime EMS and Scripture experience.

PIEDMONT MOUNTAINSIDE HOSPITAL

February 2023-September 2023

Staff RN for Medical Surgical unit. Skilled in Epic and electronic
medication management. Care for patients in medical surgical
floor of 7 pm to 7am shift. Specialized in patients with pancreatic
disease, cancer, heart and renal disease. Managed 6 patients per
shift plus new admissions, patient education and care plan creation
& management.

CHEROKEE NURSING AND HEALING

2022-Present

Weekend Supervisor at 84 bed skilled nursing and rehab center.
Filled in for charge nurses when understaffed using Point Clear
Cluck EMS EMAR System.

Patients recovering from CV Stroke, Orthopedic, Wound Care and
Chronic Substance Abuse.

PRUITT HEALTH (Agency)

2020-2021

Home Health case manager. Complete Oasis and provide health
care for patients in Pickens, Cherokee and Blue Ridge Counties.

AMEDYSYS HOME HEALTH (Agency)

cared for patients in three counties. Completed Oasis and routine
nursing visits including PICC line care, insertion of IV and Urinary
catheterization. Wound care, routine CHF Care and monitoring of
post op recovery. Left due to personal illness (completely under
control).

Lovely Ladies Golf Outings Welcome All Women of Bent Tree

By Robin Roberts

Whether you're new to golf or simply looking to sharpen your
game in a fun and supportive environment, the Lovely Ladies
golf outings are for you! Open to all women in the Bent Tree
community, these casual and friendly gatherings are designed for
practice, learning, and enjoyment—no membership required.

Held regularly on the beautiful Bent Tree course, the outings offer
a chance to get comfortable on the fairway, meet new friends, and
build your handicap at your own pace. There's no pressure, just
a relaxed atmosphere where everyone is encouraged to improve
their skills and share in the love of the game.

"We created these outings to be inclusive, welcoming, and
educational," says one of the organizers. "You don't need to be part
of a league or have a low handicap—just come as you are and enjoy
a great time with other women who love golf."

Whether you're picking up a club for the first time or returning to
the game after a break, the Lovely Ladies outings are a perfect way
to get involved. Come for the game, stay for the camaraderie!

For more information, just show up at the Bent Tree Pro Shop any
Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. or reach out to Robin Roberts at roro@trkk.net. Tee times begin at 2:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you on
the green!

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Niners Swing into Spring: May & June Highlights

Despite a few rainy-day cancellations, the Niners made the most of their May and June golf days—with great games, good laughs, and even a birdie or two!

May 8 – Closest to the Pin

The challenge was on at hole 7, but only one golfer landed it: Ursula Chapman, who not only reached the pin but made a birdie! She walked away with a well-earned \$30 prize. Nice work, Ursula—talk about precision under pressure!



Closest to the Pin: From left, Ursula Chapman, winner, and Michele Shaeffer, Tournament Chair

May 15 – Make Your Own Foursome

This popular format let players tee up with friends old and new. One standout group claimed the win: Ursula Chapman, Ellie Girard, Janet Vardaman, and Sue Weatherly. A winning combo if there ever was one!



Make Your Own Foursome: From left, Sue Weatherly, Ellie Girard, Janet Vardaman, and Ursula Chapman

May 22 – Member-Member Day

This event let Niners pair up with a partner of their choice. Top honors went to Ellie Girard and Arlene Scott, with Laura Dutton and Jan Davis taking second. The team spirit was strong and so were the scores!



Member-Member: From left, Arlene Scott, Ellie Girard, Jan Davis and Laura Dutton

June 5 – Three Blind Mice

In this fun twist, players got to toss out their three worst holes—music to many ears!



Three Blind Mice: From left, Kathy Craig, Dianne McMullen, Jan Davis and Arlene Scott

Gross Winners:

- 🏆 Arlene Scott
- 🏆 Dianne McMullen
- 🏆 Jan Davis

Net Winners:

- 🏆 Pattie Sosebee
- 🏆 Kathy Craig
- 🏆 Sherry Sather

Lovely Ladies – More Than Just a Game

Our extra playday, Lovely Ladies, continues to grow in popularity. It's the perfect time to try something new without the pressure of competition—and to enjoy a post-round bite at the Tavern. Join in and bring a friend!



Lovely Ladies: From left Donna Stapleton, Robin Roberts, Laura Dutton and Michele Shaeffer

Exciting News: Weekly Clinics with Rob!

We're thrilled to announce that our new pro, Rob Spiars, is offering weekly group clinics for just \$10 per session (8 players max). Topics will rotate and include long game, short game, putting, chipping, and course strategy. Stop by the pro shop to sign up and sharpen your skills!

Looking Ahead: July Fun

Get ready for July's creative challenges—Puttless and Odd Holes are on the horizon!

Golf Tip of the Month:

💡 *Did you know?* A whiff—swinging and missing—counts as a stroke. If your tee shot doesn't connect but the ball rolls off the tee, you've still got to play it where it lies. That first swing counts, and your next one is stroke #2. But if your ball moves during a practice swing, no worries—that doesn't count as a stroke.

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2025

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Celebrating the 4th of July in Bent Tree: A Tradition Like No Other!

By Taree Darby, Photography by Katie Henson and Nancy Lyle

There's something truly magical about celebrating the 4th of July in Bent Tree. I'll always remember my own childhood here, and the fireworks stand out as one of the most unforgettable parts of the year. Now, as a parent, the joy of watching my own kids experience it makes it even more special. This holiday has always been one of Bent Tree's biggest traditions—and one of our most cherished pastimes. It brings our community together in the most festive and fun way, and I can't wait to kick off this year's celebrations with all of you. It's shaping up to be a spectacular week, and here's everything you need to know:

July 3rd: Lakeside Fun, Music, and Fireworks!

We're starting our 4th of July celebration a little early this year – but trust us, it's going to be a blast! Get ready for an all-day lakeside celebration with Mountain City Mavericks playing from 7:00 PM until the fireworks show kicks off a little after 9:00 PM. We had them play at the Tavern just a couple of weeks ago, and the response was so great that everyone begged for them to come back – and we listened! They'll be rocking the pavilion with tunes to set the perfect summer vibe.

The Tavern will be grilling up burgers and hot dogs at the lake from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM, along with drinks and snacks. Whether you're grabbing a bite or relaxing to the music, it's going to be a great time. Plus, we're excited to announce that this year, we've got a new and improved fireworks company, and we expect it to be the best show yet!

July 4th: All Day Family Fun at the Pool!

The celebration continues on July 4th at the pool with even more fun for everyone! The day kicks off with kids' games and music from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, giving the kids of all ages a chance to have some fun before the cookout begins.

Then, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, join us for a free cookout at the pool, with hot dogs, burgers, and watermelon, courtesy of Roger (back by popular demand after last year's success)! It's a first-come, first-served event, and we're asking everyone to bring a dish to share. Afterward, Mountain City Mavericks will take the stage from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM with a family-friendly set, bringing you a perfect soundtrack for the afternoon.

This wonderful day of fun is brought to you by our amazing Aquatics Team – a huge thank you to them for putting together this awesome celebration!

A Special Thanks to Our Volunteers and Public Safety!

While these are the events that Bent Tree staff is organizing, they are just a small part of what makes our 4th of July week so special. This entire week wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication of our amazing residents and volunteers. From Youth Fest, the most anticipated week of the year, to the Road Race and the Golf Cart Parade, all of these events are made possible by the volunteers who give their time and energy to make sure everything runs smoothly. And we couldn't execute any of this without Public Safety—thank you for all the hard work, long hours, and unwavering support throughout this wild and fun week! It's because of all of you that our 4th of July celebration, and everything else happening this week, is so vibrant and memorable. Thank you all for making Bent Tree the incredible, welcoming community it is!

We're so excited to make this 4th of July one for the books. Whether you're hanging out at the lake, enjoying the live music, or sharing a meal with family and friends, there's no better place to be than Bent Tree. So come out, have fun, and let's make some amazing memories this Independence Day!





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Lake & Streams Water Quality Monitoring

By Brian Vassar

The Lake & Streams Committee applied natural, biodegradable pellets around the beach area perimeter this year. These pellets reduce silt and potential leach harborage. This process took place last year and will occur again next June, July, and August.

The May report from the Stream Keepers indicates that L&W volunteers conducted monthly chemical monitoring of five incoming streams into Lake Tamarack, as well as the outlet stream Long Swamp at Memorial. Water quality assessments are carried out in collaboration with GA 'Adopt A Stream' Group and entered into their database for trend analysis and necessary actions.

May Monitoring Results:

- PH (Possible Hydrogen) was 6.7 to 7.6 which is in the acceptable range of 6.5 to 8.0 that allows aquatic organisms to live, eggs to hatch and fish and insects to live and thrive.

- DO (dissolved oxygen) was at 6.4 to 8.4. Levels of 5 and above are needed for enough oxygen for fish, aquatic species, and invertebrates like May and Crane flies, mollusks, and crayfish to thrive. All streams and lakes are in good shape.
- Alkalinity or ability for water to thrive and resist stress or temperature changes was 38 to 65 which was very good and above the minimum of 20 for aquatic life to survive.
- Very minimal Nutrients were found such as Nitrates or Phosphates at 0.1 to 0.5ppm. Levels of 10.0 and above become dangerous.
- Water was not very turbid and little suspended solids were found at all.

More information on this important topic will be offered in coming issues. Let us know if you want to join our Team!





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Thank you, Bent Tree

from Bob Coleman

We all have some milestone moments in our lives. May 17th was one of those moments for Kristy and I. It was our youngest son Jake's wedding day. He and Bri Lingerfeldt got engaged in December of 2023, so there was plenty of time to search out a venue for the big day. Having been associated with Bent Tree for 19 years, and a homeowner for the last 8 years, we understood our very own community was a possibility, but honestly doubted it as a probability, for whatever reasons. It may have been due to some of the dated amenities, surroundings, etc... But after requesting some past photos (from residents) of previous weddings held here, it was decided that Bent Tree was now the front runner. After meeting with Taree Darby, 16 months prior to wedding date, the bride and groom were confident that they had made the right decision. The ceremony would be conducted at the spillway at Lake Tamarack, with the reception to follow at Club Tamarack. It was all becoming very real!

The big day had finally arrived. We were amid 18 consecutive days of rain during this time. It was offered in the event of rain, Club Tamarack would be transformed from Wedding Ceremony to Reception dinner in just a matter of minutes. While not ideal, this would work. However, none of that was necessary. The Good Lord shown favor on us and the rains subsided, and the sun shown brightly. The ground was dry enough for the ladies to walk on with heels and the bride was able to walk down the aisle with no mud or grass stains tarnishing her gown. The weather was perfect, the day perfect! The dining hall at Club Tamarack was decorated beautifully. The Fireside room was decorated and utilized for a cocktail hour with hors-d'oeuvres while the wedding party pics were being completed. Many of our friends enhanced this special day even more by serving food, driving shuttles cars/carts, parking cars, and even assisting with set up and breakdown of the venue. One of our friends even provided the getaway car. We are extremely grateful for Bent Tree, and our many friends that gave of their time to serve our ever-growing family! These memories will last a lifetime! Thank YOU!

I would highly recommend you consider Bent Tree when hosting one of your milestone moments. Like us, you'll be delighted with the results.



Day Tripping – State Parks

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Kaiser Conrad

There are 48 state parks in Georgia and 16 state historic sites. Several of these preserved areas can be visited in a day, others take a day to arrive so those warrant an overnight stay. A few of these treasured places will be mentioned here.

Amicolola Falls is a short 30-minute drive from Bent Tree, and if you haven't visited the park, you should. It's 849 acres and it has a camping site but if that's too primitive and you want a nearby retreat, then you can stay in their lodge! It has a nature center, but for real fun with friends you must do the archery course.

Fort Mountain is only an hour away. This park is 4,058 acres with camping, a lake, lots of hiking and horse trails. Two cool attractions here include a rock wall and a 1930s fire tower with a lookout.

Another park within an hour's drive is Red Top Mountain. This park encompasses 1,776 acres and has a Yurt! It is home to 12,000-acre Lake Allatoona where all types of water activities are available. You can also choose to hike and play mini golf.

Venturing a bit farther but within an hour and a half are four more state parks. James H. "Sloppy" Floyd Park is 561 acres and is surrounded by the Chattahoochee national forest. There is camping, hiking and two lakes for fishing and canoeing.

Smithgall Woods, one of the largest parks, is 5,664 acres and offers upscale cottages, hiking and bike trails and a chance to see wildlife so bring your camera.

Vogel is only 233 acres and one of the first areas designated as a state park. There is camping, a lake, hiking trails, a museum and general store, as well as mini golf and pedal boats.

Don Carter is the only state park on Lake Lanier and offers something for everyone, cottages, campsites, fishing, boating, swimming, kayaking, standup paddleboards, aquacycles, hiking, and more.

If you're willing to travel a bit farther, but still less than two hours from home, there are two more state parks worth mentioning. Fort Yargo is 1,816 acres and is known for mountain biking trails, so if that's your idea of fun, this is the park to visit. The park also has Yurts, disc golf, and a 260-acre lake with a beach.

Cloudland Canyon is one of the larger parks with 3,538 acres. Also, rich with mountain biking, equestrian and hiking trails. This park is located on Lookout Mountain and considered not only scenic but rugged, so bring proper footwear.

For more information regarding these and all of Georgia State Parks at GaStateParks.org.



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Ben and the Birds (*Part of the Bent Tree Untold Legends Series*)

Submitted by Lynn Kaiser Conrad

Before the 1970s, Lake Tamarack didn't exist, and in the valley that is now covered by water was a cabin owned by a bachelor man. A man known locally as Ben. Here's a bit of Ben's back story.

Ben was a trust fund baby, born in 1903. Ben's full name was Richard Benedict Van Horn, Junior, the grandson of Sir William Cornellijs Van Horn, who was responsible for the construction of the Canadian transcontinental railroad. Grandpa William Van Horn also founded CP Ships, Canadian Pacific Hotels, a flour milling company, which became the largest flour mill in the British Commonwealth. Needless to say, Ben's grandfather did very well for himself.

Both bright and privileged, he was sent the states to attend college. He entered Cornell at the tender age of 16. Ben discovered the great works and passion of John James Audubon. That, too, then became Ben's passion, the study of birds. While Cornell didn't have ornithology as a major, Ben studied biology and natural sciences. Since Ben was from Canada, he chose to focus his love for birds on the large and graceful Canadian Goose.

Ben learned about bird bonding, when birds form a strong alliance with a family or flock and bird imprinting, where birds identify shortly after hatching with their care giver. Knowing these characteristics, Ben wanted to see if he could train the birds. He was successful. Over the years, Ben trained a flock of birds to migrate from his home in Montreal to Ithica, New York, where he attended Cornell. Then, Ben went further south with the birds to Pennsylvania and then to Virginia, where the weather was still easily tolerated by these cold climate feathered fowl. Ben wanted to see how far south he could safely take the flock, and eventually he ended up in northern Georgia with this flock of migrating Canadian Geese.

Ben became a naturalist and lived a socially isolated life in his cabin, now at the bottom of the lake. Legend has it that Ben spoke to the deer, squirrels, chipmunks, bear, foxes, rabbits, hawks, crows sparrows, and other indigenous critters.

Ben was only homesteading here for a few years before the great depression hit. People were desperate and geese provided a lot which was not normally accessible in the north Georgia area. Geese were a healthy meat source, a delicacy to this day. Their large eggs were tasty and could feed a family. Their downy feathers could provide stuffing for bedding and clothes during the cold windy winters.

When people are desperate, they do desperate things. Ben knew some of the geese from his flock were missing the winter in 1932. He searched his acreage but found no remains. Then, one night, Ben encountered poachers and things got ugly fast as tends to happen when you're dealing with desperate people. So, Ben met his demise defending his birds. He died of birdshot wounds. Ben died as he lived, isolated and alone.

As the story goes, the current flock of Canadian geese in Bent Tree are descendants of Ben's first flock that traveled south, proving the hypothesis of bonding and imprinting. It is said the geese come back to Bent Tree year after year to pay homage to Ben's spirit. Every now and then an unexplained splash occurs in the lake; it is always at night and always when the geese are in residence. The splash is too big to be a turtle or a bass fish or even a beaver. The splash is believed to be Ben alerting his geese of potential dangers. If the geese react, then you know for certain that Ben has once again connected with his beloved birds.

Friends of the Forest – White-tailed Deer

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Kaiser Conrad

Once they almost didn't roam the lands of Georgis, the big eyed, gentle white-tailed deer is the official state mammal of Georgia. The deer are now plentiful with an estimated one million inhabiting Georgia lands. Scientists at the University of Georgia have been studying these gentle creatures since 1950s.

The food source and supply have a direct correlation to white-tailed reproduction. Depending on the food supply, does may give birth to twins, a single offspring or even none at all. The food supply also impacts antler development. A diminished menu means a smaller rack. People who feed deer could be adversely impacting the natural cycle.

A deer eats about five pounds of vegetation daily. Baby deer start foraging within their first month and are completely weaned at three months. White-tailed deer weigh between 70 to 250 pounds and bucks are typically bigger than does. A fawn weighs between four to eight pounds at birth.

Breeding season, called 'the rut' happens from October through January with a peak in November. Nearly 40% of does breed their first year and 100% of adults mate each year thereafter. Because of their annual mating frequency, populations need to be controlled so the deer do not destroy their habitat, deplete their food supply and consequently stifle their healthy population.

Deer have a crepuscular activity pattern, meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk, when driving conditions can be adversely impacted by light, creating a higher probability for deer and car collisions.

BTAC Ladies' Bible Study Breaks for the Summer

By Kim Stewart

The Friday Morning Ladies Bible Study appropriately kicked off 2025 with an in-depth study of the book of Genesis, the Book of Beginnings. This committed group of ladies ranged from 25-15 in number throughout the winter and spring gatherings. They were encouraged and challenged, meeting weekly in the Rec Room of Club Tamarack. The study wrapped up the spring session with a delicious Soup and Salad luncheon, thanking Laura Trousdale for all of the hours of preparation and teaching she put into the class. The group is off for the summer, taking a much-earned break, but will return on Friday, August 15 at 10 a.m. Laura encourages ladies who would like to join the study, "The Book of Beginnings sets the foundation for our belief as Christians today. We cannot understand where we are going if we do not understand where we have been. Please join us as we continue our journey as God sets the foundation for His covenant people to point us to His new covenant, our Lord and Savior- our Jesus!" If you have questions, please contact Laura Trousdale by phone, 770-313-2335 or email her at A2Tbunch@gmail.com.



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The ‘Oh’ Factor!

Dara Sinclair

All living things need to consume food to sustain life. For wild animals finding adequate food is a primary task. Nutritional needs vary with the seasons. Understanding seasonal dietary requirements and habits provides insight into bear behavior and lets people know how to be a good neighbor. This article is about the ‘O’s’ of the black bear diet.

Omnivore

Black bears are omnivorous, meaning they eat both plants and animals. These mammals are at the top of the food chain due to their large size, powerful bite, and speed. Yet, they do not indiscriminately kill and are far more likely to forage than kill. Grubs and mature insects such as ants, beetles, hornets, yellow jackets, and termites are favorites from the animal kingdom.

Ant larvae and pupae are called “brood.” These digestible clumps of fat and protein are good sources of animal protein for black bears that have long, sticky tongues for probing into ant colonies. It is a delicacy for young cubs eating their first solid foods. Bears find brood by keying in on pheromones and other chemicals ants use for communication and defense. They eat mainly the brood, not the adult ants which use offensive formic acid and citronella for defense. Bears usually avoid anthills because digging into them mixes too much soil with the brood. Instead, they tear into logs or flip over rocks and other cover to ingest clumps of brood with a few flicks of their sticky tongues. And brood is a good source of protein in early spring while plants are still greening up. Leaving downed logs for ant colonies and other insects directly contributes to food for black bears.

But overall, black bears eat mostly plants; estimates are that between 70% to 95% of their diet is plant based. Among the black bear’s favorite plant foods are acorns, nuts, roots, berries, leaves and twigs, sedges and grasses, mushrooms, dogwood, and dandelions. Black bears and other wildlife will benefit from as much native plant material as can be made available. Removing invasive plants (such as stilt grass) and making space where leaf litter or mulch is not suppressing all plant growth can help. Letting the dandelion and other

‘weeds’ grow in early spring is useful not only to the pollinators but to bears as well.

On the Move

Bears are kind of unique in that they cycle through available food sources. They take advantage of what is ripe at any given time of the year, and move from one source to the next, bingeing almost exclusively on a single source until it is exhausted. In the early spring, black bears target tender green shoots and weeds like dandelions before switching to ripe berries throughout the summer, then gorging themselves on hard mast like nuts in the fall. In an abundant habitat, their summer diet might start with blackberries before transitioning to wild cherries, then sassafras and pokeberries later on in the summer, then elderberries and persimmons.

As Bent Tree has worked with Amicalola EMC to not indiscriminately spray herbicides under power lines, blackberry has begun to return in these sunny areas. Volunteering with Lake & Wildlife to minimize young tree growth under the power lines will ensure this strategy continues and directly contributes to fruitful food sources for bears and other wildlife.

Opportunistic

Black bears are known to take advantage of an easy meal. If hungry, they will pretty much eat anything they comes across. In the spring, black bears may prey on young deer fawns if they happen to find one. They even occasionally hijack carcasses of animals that were killed by another predator. Much conflict with humans is due to the bears’ opportunistic approach to food. If human food sources are readily available, a black bear will take advantage. Feeding bears or allowing them access to human food, bird seed, and garbage causes a number of problems:

- It changes the bear’s behavior and causes them to lose their instinctive fear of humans. Over time, these bears may begin approaching people in search of food and may become more unpredictable and dangerous.
- Bears that obtain human food and garbage damage property and injure people. These bears pose a risk to public safety. They can also teach other bears this dangerous behavior.



Blackberries are one of the first wild berries to ripen in the summer and are a preferred food source for black bears. USFWS

- Studies have shown that bears that lose their fear of people by obtaining human food and garbage never live as long as bears that feed on natural foods and are shy and afraid of people. Many are hit by cars and become easy targets for poachers.

Other, or Oh My Goodness – they tried to eat what?

Many human items have fragrant ingredients that attract bears, some that you’d not really think of them as food – like cosmetics and sunscreen and bug spray. Bears will bite into insulated hot tub covers, and refrigerator walls because these items all produce formic acid when the formaldehyde in the insulation breaks down, making them smell like ant colonies. Citronella products contain a compound that is attractive to bears, likely because they also smell like ant colonies. While it may seem counterintuitive, wildlife repellents such as deer or rabbit repellents, can attract bears because of their smell. Garden fertilizers and compost, particularly anything containing fish emulsion, is a prime attractor. The bear’s very keen sense of smell can lead them to gum wrappers left in a car, or soda residue in a glass on a porch.

Given their broad dietary flexibility and adaptiveness to thrive in close proximity to humans, it can be a challenge to share habitat with black bears. As Bent Tree residents we want to be safe and also enable the bears to live wild. This requires us to understand their motivation and diligently monitor and control our own causal behaviors. We need to maintain their natural food sources and minimize enticements to our human food sources.

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Mountain Margaritaville 2025!

by Mary Davis

Another Spring Fling is in the books. What an awesome time we all had! Tim Miller did a great job (as usual) finding the wonderful Nero Simon and the Sunsetters band. The music was enjoyed by all. We had the great bartenders from our 19th Hole Tavern serving the yummy margaritas and rum runners. The tacos from the taco bar were delicious and provided by our own tavern, thank you Amy for your quick replenishments. We had such wonderful servers, if I say so myself – ha ha. Thank you, Susan B. Smith, Michele Murray Johnson, Kim Jackson and Cheryl Thomas (my friend that was visiting from Cumming and didn't know what she was in for)!

Getting ready for this event took a whole team of volunteers, I can't thank all of you enough. Thank you, Andrea Walker, for keeping me sane (well somewhat) and Laura Chambers for her advice from her experience leading this event last year!

From planning to party favor assembly and capturing the event on film. Design work, décor creation (we have some very talented artists), check-in to parking the volunteer team did it all! Just take a look at these friends and neighbors who helped make the party happen: Andrea Walker, Bev Fenello, Jay Fenello, Margie Robinson,

Laura Chambers, Kim Westbrooks, Kim Jackson, Susan B. Smith, Mary Wells (now the queen of the lost shaker of salt), Lannie Lambert, Sylvia "Sissy" Strickland, Terri Whinery, Russ Randall, Dane Chambers, Mark Ruse, Gerald Hunter, Tom Robinson, Patrick McMorro, y'all were truly amazing.

And then all the participants! The tables looked amazing. This was the first year we did participant voting and we learned a few lessons for sure. So, there was some confusion on Table 1, but both the tables were magnificent. The night of the event, we announced that Chris & Cathy Rumble had won first place, but after finding out the confusion on the tables, we realized that we didn't know if the Rumbles or Holly Johnson's fabulous décor had won. So, I wanted everyone to know that the Rumbles received their winner's basket at the event, and Holly is getting a 19th Hole Tavern Gift Certificate. I am so grateful that everyone was so understanding. I do so love our Bent Tree neighbors!

I have never run an event before, so I'll have to say it is a big learning experience, thank you everyone for your kind words of encouragement. I am ready for Summer!!!!



FINDING HOME: I Miss You, Playful Bliss

By Chris Rumble

Cathy and I love seeing the young people of Bent Tree out playing.

Bent Tree is one of the few places on earth that allows kids to experience some semblance of the childhood my brothers and I enjoyed. Go back there with me...

It's summer in the suburbs, 1960s-style. That means no school, no shoes, and no real sense of time. I'm eight years old, the third of four brothers, which means I'm old enough to cause trouble but my two-year old brother Matt is too young to blame things on.

We wake up when the sun blasts through the thin curtains, or when one of my older brothers decides to launch a rogue tennis ball at my head. Either way, the day begins with yelling.

"Breakfast, boys!" Mom's already in the kitchen, armed with eggs, bacon, toast and orange juice from concentrate. We gather around the table while Dad is off to work in his Volks Wagon Beetle, wearing a suit and tie and the weary look of a man outnumbered five-to-one.

Mom plates the scrambled eggs as hungry hands grab for the most buttery pieces of toast. The food that took 25 minutes to prepare vanishes in about four minutes. The last piece of bacon is lifted from the platter, signaling that it is time to scatter.

Mom says, "Go play outside!" which in the '60s was code for "Don't come back unless you're bleeding or it's dinner." Speaking of that, my Dad had a "Three-day-rule." Simply stated, "If it is still hurting after three days, we'll go to the doctor."

No more food to anchor us at the table, so we roam. Barefoot. Shirtless. Wearing nothing but our cut-offs. The backyard is German occupied France, the neighbor's bushes are Switzerland (neutral, but good for hiding). As usual, big brother Mike gets to be G.I. Joe and I get to be the Nazi.

By 10:30 most mornings, Nivelle Drive and Joseph Court have been transformed into a motocross course. Today, it is the open range of Texas and our bikes are horses. The Burnetts and the Kilbys are the cowboys, the Zorns and the Rumbles are the Indians. Mike and I always wanted to be the Indians.

Lunch is peanut butter, jelly and sibling negotiations over who gets the end piece of the bread.

By afternoon, we are fighting over whether Kenny Pope was safe or out in an all-important Whiffle Ball game, followed by building a dam in the creek and then constructing a ramp for our bikes using

a piece of plywood and some wildly misplaced optimism. We all race down the Porterfield's long driveway, make a sharp turn and hit the ramp at full speed. One kid after another catches air. The exhilaration continues until someone cries. The wails of a fallen child is the clue that it is time to disassemble the ramp before we have to hear the "What were you thinking" lecture from Old Lady Laurens while we all look down at the ground until she leaves.

When Dad gets home, whoever was the worst that day hides. Other than that, the poor guy is greeted with apathy and two-year-old Matt hitting him in the shin with a hammer, the same one he was using – not five minutes ago – to puts dents in the Buick we inherited from Grandma.

Dinner is loud, chaotic, and involves Butch, the oldest, stabbing the biggest piece of meat before anyone else can and at least one spilled glass of sweet tea. Afterward, we chase fireflies until it's dark, when all the kids congregate under the street light to play Kick the Can or Sardines.

We find each other by moonlight, until, inside the houses, the TV stations air a PSA: "It's ten o'clock. Do you know where your children are?" Soon thereafter, parents stick their heads out of their front door.

"Roger! Bobby! Come on in! "Bedtime, kids!" "Mike! Chris! Come home!"

Inside. baths are optional, arguments are enjoyed nightly and making fun of someone is just par for the course and everyone gets a turn at being the target.

We fall asleep in a tangle of limbs and sheets, a little sunburned and very satisfied.

Another summer day is in the books.

They were in endless supply.

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|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Travelmation-Rachel Spain | 678-316-0314 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|

Window Replacement

| | |
|--|--------------|
| America's Best Choice | 678-896-8688 |
| Davis Window & Door | 678-379-1629 |
| EntryPoint Doors & Windows | 770-904-0094 |
| North Georgia Replacement Windows, Inc. | 770-888-1604 |

Wine

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Grapes & Grains Wine & Spirits | 770-884-2450 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|

Thinking of Making a Move?

As a Bent Tree resident for over 10 years and a seasoned REALTOR® with 40+ years of experience, I understand the nuances of our unique community. Whether you're selling, buying, or simply evaluating your options, I'm here to guide you every step of the way.

Bent Tree Market Snapshot Last 30 Days

34 Active Listings
1 Under Contract
1 Pending Sale
9 Homes Sold in the Last 30 Days
\$527,000 Median Sale Price
63 Average Days on Market
98.6% Average Sale-to-List Price Ratio

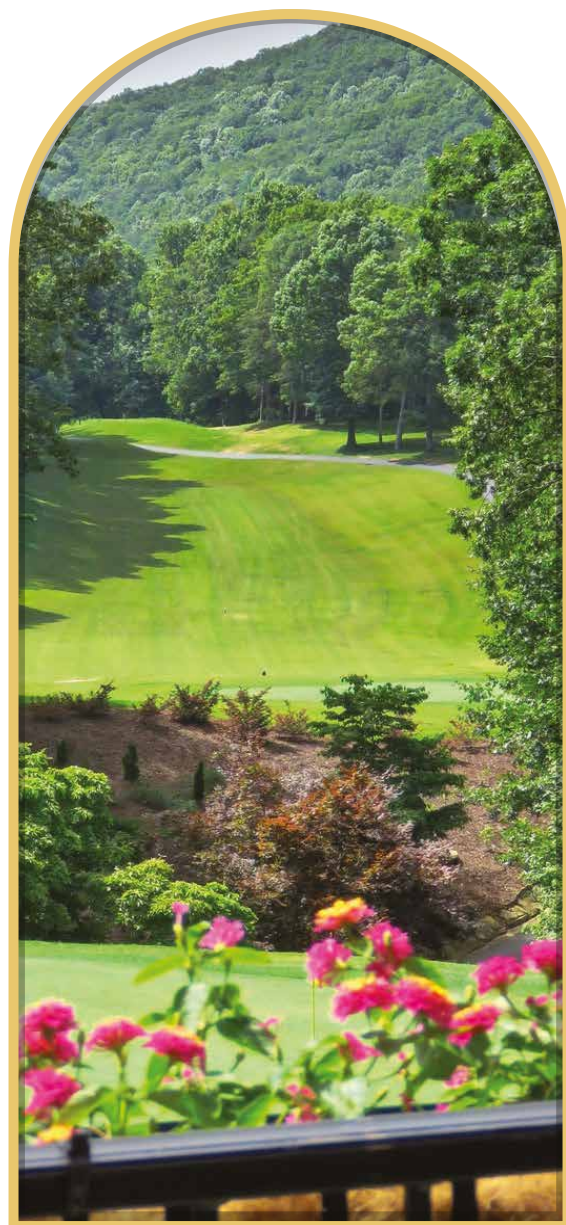


GERALD LAMBERT
REALTOR®

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🏠 770-424-0888

glambert@charsonrealty.com



CENTURY 21. Results | Ocean



CENTURY 21 OFFICE
SOUTHEAST



CENTURY 21
OFFICE GEORGIA



UNITS CENTURY 21
NATIONWIDE



GLOBAL 21 OFFICE
WORLDWIDE

171 Foothills Parkway, Ste. 104 | Marble Hill GA 30148

Craft Real Estate is again leading the way in sales for 2025. With 29 homes sold so far in Bent Tree for a volume of \$14,197,500, Craft sold 11 of those. There are currently 40 active homes on the market with three pending sales and Craft has one of the pending sales. Craft has 14 of the active listings. We need more houses to sell! There are still plenty of buyers looking in Bent Tree but there is very little inventory to sell them. If you are considering selling your home, please contact us. Craft outsold every other brokerage in 2024 with 15 of the 73 sales. We have the knowledge, the experience, and the contacts to sell your home for top dollar. Looking forward to working with you.



1397 Chestnut Cove Trail \$899,000 | 5BD/3.5BA



181 Fox Den Circle \$875,000 | 3BD/2.5BA



**175 Fairview Court
\$699,000 | 3BD/3.5BA**



**71 Cutthroat Ridge
\$625,000 | 4BD/3.5BA**



**572 Cutthroat Ridge
\$625,000 | 3BD/3.5BA**



**270 Sleepy Hollow Circle
\$624,900 | 3BD/3BA**



**272 Bee Tree Ridge Court
\$575,000 | 3BD/3.5BA**



**469 Moss Patch Trail
\$529,000 | 3BD/3BA**



**354 Starcross Lane
\$479,000 | 3BD/3.5BA**



**222 Mulligan Way
\$455,000 | 3BD/2.5BA**



**255 Sunset Court
\$379,900 | 3BD/2BA**



**214 South View Trail
\$365,000 | 3BD/2BA**



**304 Sunset Court
\$329,900 | 3BD/2BA**



**193 Valley View Trail
\$284,900 | 2BD/2BA**

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