



# Blackberry Juice

**FALL 2009**

**BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION**

**MANAGER**

Becki Bray

Phone 706 273.3100

Fax 706 273.3201

Property Manager's Pager  
(for after hours emergencies)  
706 697.8304

**MAILING ADDRESS**

Blackberry Mountain Association  
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Ellijay, GA 30536

**EMAIL**

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**WEBSITE**

www.BlackberryMountainAssociation.com

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jack Wheeler, President  
David Galusha, Vice President  
Bill Henning, Treasurer  
Carolyn Sewell, Secretary  
Dave Teffeteller, Member at Large

**DESIGN COMMITTEE**

Barbara Dunson  
Barbara Ellis  
Norman Essner  
Maxine Morris  
Dave Teffeteller

**CCR/BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

Rich Baker  
Norman Essner  
Maxine Morris  
Dave Teffeteller



## Notes From the Office Becki Bray, Manager

I would like to thank everyone who came out to make our annual picnic a success. We had one of the largest groups ever. The Blue Ridge Bluegrass Band outdid them selves with wonderful entertainment even inspiring a few to get up and dance! It was a great time, and I look forward to next year.



In February of this year, River's Edge property owners voted to no longer contribute toward salaries for the gate attendants. Since that time your board has been trying to keep this service and still remain within our budget. In that effort the board has decided to discontinue the services of the gate attendants effective October 1 through the winter months. This issue will be revisited in March 2010 and a decision will be made at that time concerning reinstating attendants for the summer months.

Change can be a good thing. I remember several years ago thinking I must be the last person in the country to get a microwave – now I can't imagine getting along without one! Same for cell phones – I couldn't see the need for one until my daughter had a flat tire on the interstate while traveling alone out of state; I bought one for each of my daughters and me! Now it is a permanent attachment. Internet service and email have also become a modern convenience that can save the association both time and money. I am able to send one email notice (bear alert, package delivery, community events, etc.) to everyone I have an address for at the same time rather than individual phone calls or letters. Please do not misunderstand – if you do not have internet access or if you receive

an urgent or perishable package I will certainly contact you personally. However, if you do have access and an email address, please consider adding it to our list for easier and faster communication from the office.

Recently I have had residents apologize for calling me concerning an emergency with water or the gates. No need to apologize; I would rather receive ten calls than none and be unaware of water outages or gates down. If you experience an emergency with the water system or gate system after hours please call 706-889-8179 and leave a message stating your name, the nature of the emergency and a call back number. I may not respond immediately as my first act will be to find someone to take care of the problem, but I will return your call as soon as possible. Then, please be patient as it is next to impossible to get someone to come out for repairs late at night – it will usually be the next morning. If you have an emergency during office hours call the office at 706-273-3100. One word of caution: it will not do you any good to call me when the power goes out; I have no control over power outages so please contact AEMC at 706-276-2362.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

## The Woolly Adelgid Nears Blackberry

The Woolly Adelgid continues to be the primary threat to our community's environment. However, we are fortunate to have available a number of means of treating our hemlocks – killing the adelgids that infest them to prevent the damage and tree death that the hemlock woolly adelgid can cause in just three to five years.

There are two treatment types available to Blackberry property owners for treating adelgid-infested trees. They are soap spray and systemic treatments (by soil drenching, soil injection, or trunk injection). Selecting the appropriate treatment method for your hemlocks depends on factors such as the trees' accessibility (can you get to it easily), whether it is near water or in rocky soil, and the expense of the treatment. Each treatment option has benefits and drawbacks relating to cost, effectiveness at killing the adelgids, and ecological effects. **None of these treatments have any preventative effect, so treating uninfested hemlocks will not protect them.**

Maintaining the general health of your hemlocks will help their survival. You should irrigate your trees to insure they get one inch of water per week and prune

dead and dying limbs. Although fertilizing may benefit a healthy hemlock, you should not fertilize adelgid-infested hemlocks because doing so improves adelgid survival and reproduction.

In our landscape, the application of soap spray or horticultural oil is one of the most effective treatment methods and has the least potential for negative environmental consequences. Soap and oil have been used in gardens and home landscapes for more than 20 years and they cause no or minimal harm to other, beneficial insects.

Insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils have no residual effects, so reapplication may be necessary if rain occurs within 24 hours of application.

If your trees are so tall that you cannot apply soap or oil to the entire tree, select another treatment option or contact an ar-



Hemlock Woolly Adelgids, covered in their wool, attached at the base of the hemlock needles.

borist who has equipment that allows the entire tree to be covered. Systemic treatment of adelgid-infested hemlocks is accomplished with the chemical imidacloprid. The product is applied either to the soil and tree's root zone by drenching or injection, or to the tree itself through a trunk injection system.

**Never use either soil drenching or soil injection near open water or in rocky soils that will drain quickly to open water.**

If you have any questions about identifying your hemlocks or treatment of the woolly adelgid, please contact a member of the design committee for assistance.

### Board Nominations

The terms of three of the directors of the BMA board will expire this year. If you have an interest in serving on the board, please contact the office.

### Annual Meeting Reminder

#### Plan ahead.

The annual Association meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, February 20, 2009, 9:00 am**. You will receive more information at a later date.

**Are you one of the residents who hasn't returned the response regarding the CCR amendment?**

**Approval of this amendment is necessary to keep our CCRs in effect.**

**Please turn in your signed, witnessed and notarized amendment form. Or bring a witness to the office and have the form notarized.**

