



# Blackberry Juice

**JANUARY 2014**

**BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION**

**MANAGER**  
Becki Taylor

Phone 706 273.3100  
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After Hours Water and Gate Systems  
Emergencies  
(leave name, phone # and brief message)  
706 889-8179

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Ellijay, GA 30536

**EMAIL**  
blackberry@ellijay.com

**WEBSITE**  
www.BlackberryMountainAssociation.com

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
David Galusha, President  
Dave Teffeteller, Vice President  
Carolyn Sewell, Treasurer  
Norman Essner, Secretary  
Barbara Ellis, Assistant Secretary

**DESIGN COMMITTEE**  
Barbara Dunson  
Norman Essner  
Seth Hegert  
Dave Teffeteller



## Happy 2014!

### Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 1, 2014**, at 9:30 am at the Gilmer Arts building located at 207 Dalton Street in downtown Ellijay. See the website for directions and a map.



### Proxies

Approximately two weeks before the annual meeting you will receive a packet containing the annual report, board candidate's profiles, proposed budget and a proxy. It is very important that you attend the meeting, but if you are not able, please assign your proxy to a property owner who is attending the meeting. This is a **general proxy** and gives the holder the authority to cast votes on your behalf on any matter that requires a vote at the meeting.

### Board Nominations

The terms of three board members, Carolyn Sewell, Treasurer; Norman Essner, Secretary; and Barbara Ellis, Assistant Secretary expire this year. While they have agreed to serve another term, nominations for their seats on the board are being accepted. **The nominations with a brief biography should be sent to the association manager, Becki Taylor, no later than February 7, for inclusion on the ballot and proxy.** Please remember that all nominees must be members in good standing with the Association.

Nominations may also be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

### Fuel and Heat

Now is the time to check your propane tank fuel level. Don't rely on your fuel company to routinely check your tank. During the winter months it's a good practice to keep your fuel tank no less than 25% full.

It is not uncommon for portions of Gilmer County to be without electrical service for extended periods of time due to fallen trees brought on by heavy snow and ice. Remember your furnace must have an electrical source to operate.

Do you have an alternative heat source for your home? If you have a fireplace, make sure that it is functioning properly, the chimney is clean, and you have a good supply of dry, seasoned firewood, kindling and fire starters.

If you have a generator, make certain that it is functioning properly and you have a sufficient amount of fuel for several days of continuous operation.

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## Winterization Tips

1. Protect outside spigots and pipes with insulated covers.
2. Set the thermostat at 50 degrees or above.
3. Make sure the heating system is in working condition.
4. Open the cabinet doors where water pipes are located.
5. Consider shutting off the water supply to your house and draining the water lines.

## Wells

Blackberry's wells are equipped with electric pumps. When the power is off - the pumps are off, and water will not be available to your home. Make sure you have a supply of potable water for drinking and cooking. Many residents gather gray water in rain barrels to use for watering summer plants. That same water can also be used for flushing toilets.

## Roads

If you're concerned about getting out of your home due to ice or snow, make sure you have an accessible supply of ice melt to apply to your porch, sidewalk and driveway.

If you think you will need to drive on Blackberry and county roads, ensure that you have a properly equipped vehicle. Four-wheel drive and snow tires may be necessary. If inclement weather is in the forecast, and you have pressing appointments or health concerns, consider making arrangements for accommodations nearer the major roads.

## Mail Delivery

The USPS requires that all mail addressed to Blackberry residents include the unit number (i.e. 25 Blackberry Mountain Drive #8101).

Also, make sure you remove mail from your box at least every thirty (30) days, the USPS audits boxes frequently and will close boxes that appear to be unused. If your home is sold, please return the mail box keys to the association office. New owners must come by the office to fill out a USPS delivery card. Mail box keys may be picked up at that time.

## Contact Information

Has there been a change in your home, work or cell phone number, email or home address? If so, please notify the office. Also, if you are currently receiving invoices, newsletters, notices and alerts by USPS mail, please authorize the office to send you these communications by email.

The screenshot shows the Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation website. The header includes the company logo and navigation links like 'HOME', 'MY ACCOUNT', 'NEW SERVICES', 'NEWS', 'REPORT AN OUTAGE', 'ENERGY SAVING TIPS', 'CAPITAL CREDITS', 'MY CO-OP', and 'MY COMMUNITY'. A prominent banner reads 'FAST, EASY OUTAGE REPORTING' with a 'REPORT AN OUTAGE' button. Below the banner are sections for 'OUTAGE INFORMATION' with a map, 'RECENT NEWS & EVENTS' with several news items, and 'ONLINE BILL PAY' with a '811' logo.

AEMC provides power outage information at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com). On this site you can monitor the affected areas and power restoration progress.

## Outside Fires

The Georgia Forestry Commission requires a permit for all outside burning including the burning of all vegetation including leaf piles and brush.

Permits may be applied for online: [www.gfc.state.ga.us/online-permits/index.cfm](http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/online-permits/index.cfm) or by calling 1-877-OK2-BURN (1-877-652-2876).

It is unlawful to burn man-made materials such as tires, shingles, plastics, lumber, household garbage, etc. Permits are issued only for natural vegetative materials. Fires should not be initiated before 8:00 a.m. and should be completely extinguished before dark.

**Burning permits are good only for the day they were issued.** If you obtain your permit after dark, your permit will be good for the following day. Once you have applied for the GFC permit, you must then **obtain permission from the Blackberry office** before any burning will be permitted.

The screenshot shows the Georgia Forestry Commission's online permit application form. The header includes the GFC logo and the tagline 'protecting and conserving Georgia's forests'. The form is titled 'All data fields must be completed before you can get a Burn Authorization Permit.' and contains several sections:
 

- County of Burning:** A dropdown menu with 'Chilton' selected.
- Personal Information:** Fields for Last Name, First Name, Address, City, State, Zip, and Phone No. (with a default number: 814 781-1500).
- Location of Burn:** A field for 'Location of Burn if Different from above Address'.
- What will you be burning? Check All that Apply:** A section with checkboxes for 'Hard Piled Natural Vegetation' and 'Small Garden Spot (less than one acre)'. A note states: 'Notice: It is unlawful to burn man-made materials such as tires, shingles, plastics, etc. Permits are issued only for natural vegetative materials.'
- Burn Restrictions:** A text block explaining that permits are not issued for burning inside city limits of Ellijay or East Ellijay, The Walnut Mountain Community, Talking Rock Properties, Talking Rock Creek Estates, and Buckhorn Estates. It also lists prohibited materials like household garbage, paper, plastics, and lumber.
- Technical Fields:** Fields for '72,18,190,23' (with a note: 'The Number on the left identifies your Computer on this Network.') and '03/01/2014 19:07:06' (with a note: 'Date/Time on Network for this Burn Permit').
- Agreement:** A checkbox for 'I affirm that the information I have entered is true and this mark is to be considered my Legal Signature.'
- Submit:** A button labeled 'Submit-Get Permit Number.' with a note: 'All data fields must be completed before you can get a Burn Authorization Permit.'