



Blackberry Juice

JULY 2020

BLACKBERRY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION

OFFICE MANAGER

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After Hours Water and Gate Systems Emergencies

(leave name, phone # and brief message)
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Galusha, President

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Carolyn Sewell, Treasurer

Rich Baker, Secretary

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DESIGN COMMITTEE

Barbara Dunson

Jennifer Fontenot

Dave Teffeteller



Are You Fire Wise?

Blackberry Mountain Association is in the process of becoming a recognized Firewise® community. The National Fire Prevention Association's Firewise USA® program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take proactive action to prevent losses. There are no costs associated with membership and it is not mandatory that every homeowner comply with implementation of the risk reduction steps you can take to make your home safer during a wildfire event. However, it is the BMA Board's goal that we achieve 100% homeowner participation.

It is highly recommended that you contact Anthony English of the Georgia Forestry Commission and request that an onsite Firewise® Risk Assessment Survey be performed on your home and property. There is no charge and you do not have to be present for the survey. Following the survey, you will receive a written report identifying any areas where attention is recommended. Anthony's phone number is (706) 754-2354.

The Blackberry website provides links to the FireWise® website as well as numerous fact sheets and guidelines for measures you can take to make you home safer during a wildfire. For additional information, please contact Rich Baker BMA Board Secretary at bakerrs1@aol.com or (706) 889-6989.



Don't Get Towed

If you plan to park an unattended vehicle at any of Blackberry's common areas including the parking area at the office, make sure that you have a Blackberry window sticker affixed to the lower left of your windshield. Vehicles without a sticker are subject to being towed.



Blackberry windshield stickers are available at the Association office.

Welcome Our New Residents

Kirk Adams LL13A

Joshua and Nicole Amstutz NP3

Bob and Melanie Brewster SL21

Brandon and Patricia Byrd HM03

Joe Preiss SL14C

Cheryl Shultz SS20

Matt and Amy Wagner LL55

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Feeding Blackberry's Deer

Ask wildlife biologists for their opinion regarding feeding deer and you will learn that feeding wild, white-tailed deer actually endangers their health and reduces their ability to survive and compete. Feeding also makes the deer more vulnerable to starvation, predation, disease and vehicle collisions.

Problems start because feeding congregates deer into unnaturally high densities. These high deer densities can spread diseases and attract predators, increasing the risk of death by coyotes or dogs. It can cause aggression in the herd, wasting deer's vital energy reserves and leading to injury or death; as well as using up critical fat reserves as deer expend energy traveling to and from the feed areas. Feeding can deny access to food for subordinate deer and fawns, and can encourage over-grazing of natural vegetation. It also increases the likelihood of deer-vehicle collisions.

One of the most serious drawbacks to feeding deer is that it lures them away from their natural feeding areas. This attraction can trap deer in inferior habitat and increase the chance of malnutrition and predation. If deer continually go to man-made feed sites instead of natural areas, then young deer may never learn to find their own natural, wild habitat.

According to Georgia's Department of Natural Resources data, **Blackberry has approximately 8 times more deer density than is considered desirable for a healthy population.** Furthermore, in order to rehabilitate our decimated forest floor, Blackberry should be the home to no more than 2 or 3 does.

While we all enjoy viewing wildlife, and a few falsely believe they're helping deer by feeding them, the over-population problem in Blackberry is reaching a crisis point that must be addressed.

What can you do? If you're feeding the deer, **STOP!**






Please remember that Blackberry Mountain Association does not allow any outside burning, fire pits or campfires. The use of fireworks of any kind is also prohibited.

Power Outages

A screenshot of the Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation website. The page features a navigation bar with links like 'HOME', 'MY ACCOUNT', 'NEW OUTAGES', 'HELP', 'REPORT AN OUTAGE', 'CHECK YOUR BILL', 'LEGAL COUSES', 'MY LOG-OUT', and 'MY COMMENTS'. The main content area is titled 'FAST, EASY OUTAGE REPORTING' and includes a 'REPORT AN OUTAGE' button. Below this, there are sections for 'OUTAGE INFORMATION' with a map, 'RECENT NEWS & EVENTS' with a 'REPORTING OUTAGE' button, and 'ABOUT AEMC' with a 'VIEW OUTAGES' button. The footer contains logos for 'AMICALOLA ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION', '811', and 'RECYCLING'.

Please do not call the Blackberry office and emergency number to report a power outage. Instead call your utility company, Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation, at **706 276-0359**. AEMC provides power outage information at www.amicalolaemc.com. On this site you can monitor the affected areas and power restoration progress.