



Bear Creek Forest News

Bear Creek Forest Property Owners Association, Accident, Maryland

SUMMER 2011

www.bearcreekforest.org

In the News...

An Association meeting was held on May 21st at the Accident Volunteer Fire Department. The minutes are enclosed. The next meeting will be held in early fall, so check your mailbox and our website for a meeting notice. As you can see by the minutes, lots of important issues were discussed that affect our community and property values, so your participation and input is vital. Of particular interest is the discussion on our finances and proposal to increase our annual dues which fund much needed road maintenance projects and snow plowing. Frankly, the past two severe winters have left us with little extra for road projects. Even if you don't visit your property often – or only in the summer, our roads must be maintained to support our properties values and provide access to utility companies, realtors, and emergency vehicles. A ballot on the proposed dues increase is enclosed, please complete it and return it to the Secretary ASAP.

Please Clear Roadside Brush!

Two years of heavy snowfall and recent summer thunderstorms have caused a number of trees and saplings to fall into our roads. Because we don't have funds

to hire a contractor to do the work, please remove brush and small trees 15 feet back from the road on your properties to prevent vegetation from bending into the road, making snow plowing difficult and roads hazardous. "Daylighting" roads will also help melt ice and snow and allow them to dry out. Several realtors attempting to show properties for sale to prospective buyers have complained about access – not a good selling point!

Enjoy Your ATV Responsibly...

There have been several complaints regarding trespassing and damage to Bear Creek by All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's or Four Wheelers). Many of us own property in BCF for recreation, which includes the use and enjoyment of ATV's. Please remember that your recreation may create a nuisance for other property owners, and even ecological damage to our community. Here are a few important reminders to consider while enjoying your ATV's:

- ❖ Just because your ATV can take you wherever you want to go, consider if you should go there. If you are not on BCF roads or your own property, then you are

on someone else's property. If you enter a property without permission, then you are trespassing.

- ❖ Operating ATV's on BCF community roadways is permissible. Please consider noise and impacts to our road surfaces, and watch for auto traffic.
- ❖ Power line and gas line rights-of-way are not public property, but are owned by BCF landowners whose property they cross. Accessing these areas without permission is also trespassing.
- ❖ Under no circumstances should ATV's be operated in or on the banks of Bear Creek. Again, the banks of Bear Creek are the private property of BCF landowners, and are further protected as a "Conservation Area" under Article III of our Bylaws Declaration. Bear Creek is a managed trout fishery under the jurisdiction of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Operating ATV's in or near the creek causes erosion and considerable damage to both plant and aquatic life.

The DNR Police have advised our Board of Directors that they will respond to trespassing complaints, and will be especially aggressive in enforcing violations in Bear Creek. To report ATV or other natural resources violations, contact DNR Police at (301) 777-7771.

How's the Weather?

Planning to come up for the weekend?

There are several good websites that you can check to see what it's doing on the mountaintop:

www.chart.state.md.us/travinfo/weatherstationdata.asp

www.garrettcollege.edu/weather.

weather.com/weather/local/21520.

Your BCF Officers...

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