

## 2702 Creston Drive



We decided in 2004 that we eventually wanted to retire in the mountains of North Carolina and set about finding the ideal place to build our dream home. While there were ample locations from Boone/Blowing Rock to Cashiers/Highlands, we were drawn to the Asheville area with its vibrant community of restaurants, arts, entertainment and outdoor activities. Using Black Mountain as our base of operations, we began exploring the various communities and developments in the region.

When we discovered Creston, it was newly developed and still a bit raw – while a few lots had been sold, no houses had been constructed. The road sides had little or no foliage, the Community Center was still under construction and a trailer parked on Trillium Lane was the sales office. Yet Creston stood out from all the communities that we had seen. There was attention to small details – stonework accents; a covered porch swing from which to watch the sunset; the stone table and bench – numerous elements that were more than basic and reflected creativity and a commitment both to nature and the community that might be.



*Lot T-28 (2005)*

Creston felt right. Our next decision was: where in this slice of heaven did we want to build our dream house? We were well aware of the conventional wisdom that one should avoid building on the north side of a mountain and Creston had an abundance of gorgeous lots on the southern side of Hicks Mountain. Yet we consistently found ourselves drawn to the northern side of Creston Drive and the spectacular views of the Mt. Mitchell and the Black Mountains, the Craggies, Montreat's East Ridge and Evans Knob.

Fewer than 10 Creston lots had been sold in March of 2005 when we brought in the “big guns” to assist with our decision. We have a close friend who gained a reputation building exceptional houses in the Boone/Blowing Rock area. We trusted him fully and knew that he would give us sound advice.

On a snowy day in March of 2005, we walked 3-4 lots we were considering and our friend pointed out pros and cons of each. When we came to T-28, he was impressed by the 180 degree mountain view. We voiced our concerns that the lot would not provide a view of the

sunrise and that the northern side would be more severe. He pointed out that while we would not see the sun rise, the entire Black Mountain range would be lit up in grand fashion reflecting the morning sun. He considered the lot to have one of the more spectacular mountain views that he had ever seen— and noted that the view would always remain the same, since it was the Pisgah National Forest and would never be developed. He sealed the deal when he said, “I can build you a house that can handle the elements; but I can’t move that view to the south side of the mountain.”

When we purchased the lot, we had a contract on land in Charlotte that we anticipated funding our Creston house. When that contract fell through, we revised our timeline for physically building, while continually building personal relationships with the steadily growing Creston community. We have been part of that community ever since 2005, during which time we have enjoyed hiking the trails and making friendships that will last a lifetime. Where we had planned an early retirement, when those plans changed we opted for a part-time home in Black Mountain, which has since become our full time residence. Nonetheless, Creston will always be in our hearts.



*Sassafras*

We consider ourselves to be stewards of the land we own, and hope this property’s new owners will take up that same sense of stewardship and discovery of all that these mountains offer. There used to be an old animal trail that led down the gully, past a rock cropping with a fox den, ending up at Teacup Pond (which connects to the road to the Triple Falls Sanctuary). That animal path is just waiting to be developed into a walkable trail. The lot is abundant with sassafras— a core ingredient

for sassafras tea and sassafras hard rock candy. Someone from a younger generation is just waiting to learn how to identify sassafras with its unique three different shapes of leaves. We hope you’ll help them. While you’re at it, teach them that Jewel Weed is a salve with properties similar to aloe vera. Help them discover wild irises, Lady Slippers and more.



*Jewel Weed*

We know this fabulous site will become someone’s future home, and it will be appreciated as much as we’ve enjoyed our time and experience at Creston. Plus, you’ll love all of your Creston neighbors!



*Dusk from the Community Center*

Climb the mountains and get  
their good tidings,  
Nature's peace will flow into you  
as sunshine flows into trees.  
The winds will blow their own  
freshness into you and the  
storms their energy,  
while cares will drop off like  
autumn leaves.

— John Muir



Creston Community Center

