

## **DEERLICK ASTRONOMY VILLAGE RECOGNIZED AS FIREWISE COMMUNITY**

Deerlick Astronomy Village in Taliaferro County has recently earned national Firewise Community recognition. The Georgia Forestry Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are parties to the national Firewise community program aimed at protecting homes and property from wildfires. The Firewise Communities program was established to reach beyond the traditional fire service by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners and others in the effort to increase the protection for people, property and natural resources from wildland fire risk – before fires occur. Living in an area surrounded by forest, as many of us do in Taliaferro County, we are conscious of the challenge presented by the threat of an out of control fire in the woodlands surrounding our property. Deerlick Astronomy Village has stepped up to the challenge.

Deerlick Astronomy Village is a planned community focused on catering to the unique needs of amateur and professional astronomers. Home sites are available as well as non-resident lots for dedicated observatory sites. Deerlick Astronomy Village is located in the very darkest skies East of the city of Sharon Georgia, far away from big city light pollution and most other forms of pollution. Deerlick Astronomy Village is surrounded by woodlands. Fire protection for Deerlick Astronomy Village is provided by the Sharon Fire Station of the Taliaferro County Fire Rescue Department; as well as, the Washington District office of the Georgia Forestry Commission.

To provide further protection from wildland fire, Deerlick Astronomy Village adopted a number of established Firewise landscaping practices, and undertook specific initiatives in building construction, such as the use of fire resistant materials all aimed at further isolating homes and observatory equipment from the danger of an out of control wildfire in the neighboring woodlands. The Firewise program certifies residential communities that have met specific protective criteria. Deerlick Astronomy Village is one of the first 19 communities in the state of Georgia to have successfully adopted and implemented the Firewise Community practices that aid in the protection of property from wildfires.