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REAL ESTATE  
CLASSIFIED, 40

SPECIAL ISSUE:  
LIFESTYLE AND AMENITIES

## LIFE AT YOUR SPEED

There's a  
place to suit  
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maybe just up  
ahead, Page 32



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## WHERE NATURE IS PERMANENTLY PROTECTED

**Anderson Creek Retreat:** A community focused on preserving the natural environment and on providing a place for mountain sports like hiking, biking and fishing. The development covers over 1,000 acres of mountaintops, ridges and creek valleys with preserved pioneer homesteads, creek corridors and botanically sensitive areas.

These permanently protected places are connected by a network of trails, and covenants ensure that the land will be managed for the long-term benefit of the environment and property owners.

In February 2004, Kassie and Derek Dahlgren bought a 3.3 acre lot at Anderson Creek Retreat. They built a home with a traditional Southern "dogtrot" design of two separate buildings separated by a covered porch.

The kitchen, living room and dining room are in one building, and the two bedrooms are in another. There's a large back deck as well, and landscaping is all in native plants like mountain laurels and rhododendrons.

### How they found Anderson Creek:

"We had been looking in the area for a couple of years when we ran into an old friend who is a builder," says Derek. "He was building a house for a property owner in Anderson Creek and told us about the development. He suggested we drive up and check it out, so we did. We ended up making five or six trips up there over the next year or so. We rode our bikes or hiked each time we visited. The more we got to know the property the more we knew this was where we wanted to build."

### Keeping things the way they are:

"We didn't want to be part of a subdivision atmosphere," says Derek. "The developer, Doug David, has a concept of conservation and keeping things the

### FACTS ABOUT ANDERSON CREEK:

**Address:** 247 Old Anderson Creek Road, Ellijay

**Telephone:** 706-635-5124

**Web site:**

[www.andersoncreekretreat.com](http://www.andersoncreekretreat.com)

**Price range:** \$350,000-\$1,000,000

**Number of homes:** 12

**Square footage:** 1,100-4,400

**Lot sizes:** 3-plus acres

**Developer:** Anderson Creek LLLP

### Directions from downtown

**Atlanta:** Take I-285 to Ga. 400 north. Travel 2.3 miles past Ga. 53 near Dawsonville. Turn left on Ga. 136 and travel approximately 14 miles until Ga. 136 merges with Ga. 183. Continue on Ga. 183 for 2.3 miles until it ends at Ga. 52 near Amicalola Falls. Turn left on Ga. 52 toward Ellijay. At approximately 10.6 miles turn right on Roy Road. Go approximately 5.8 miles on Roy Road to a stop sign at Old Bucktown Road. Turn right across the bridge on Tickanetley Creek and bear left on Old Bucktown Road for 1.3 miles. Anderson Creek's barn and pasture are on your right at Spring Camp Road.

way they were. There were no plans for building tennis courts or pools, no paved roads; it was just going to be rustic and natural, staying the way it was. That's just what we were looking for."

Kassie adds, "It's unbelievable how much open property there is here. We can mountain bike for three days and not hit the same trail twice."



Kassie and Derek Dahlgren enjoy spending their weekends in Anderson Creek.

**There's a real sense of community:** "People don't come up here and buy their lot and try to be isolated," says Derek. "Everybody who has built up here wants to be part of the process of leaving things very natural and protecting what's here. We even have a group that organizes plant rescues. Before someone builds on their property, the house is staked out, and we as a community go in and save as many plants as we can before the bulldozers come in."

**How they spend their time here:** "We come up almost every weekend. It takes us an hour and fifteen minutes to get here from our home in Canton," says Derek.

"We bring our dog, Scout, who's a great mountain biker. She runs the trails with us, and she wears a bear bell so she won't spook any bears. She loves it here," adds Kassie. "We cook out here at the house, or go down to the creek camp. Derek usually has some project like put-

ting up shelves, and I go out looking for arrowheads. On a Saturday morning, we'll meet up with the neighbors and go for a ride. Then we use our outdoor shower, my favorite feature of our entire cabin, and spend the afternoon relaxing."

**There's always something new to see:** "As long as we've been here, we're still finding new trails. I'm not sure we've seen them all," says Derek. "There's the creek camp, the trout stream, a lake you can fish or use canoes on, logging trails and a wagon trail that runs through the property, deer trails ... some of the trails run along ridges where you're looking out over the property and some run by the creek. They're not easy trails to ride, but they're awesome. And if you get tired of riding here, you can continue on to the U.S. Forest Service land next door and go all the way to Amicalola Falls. We never run out of things to do."



The Dahlgrens own a 3.3-acre lot and built a traditional Southern "dogtrot" design.



The living room is in one building on the Dahlgrens' property and bedrooms in the other.

VACATION HOME SPOTLIGHT



Anderson Creek has plenty of space for Audrey to ride Blaze. The community's environmental commitment was a huge selling point for Catherine and Elton Ashford.

CHRISTOPHER QUENDO / Special

ANDERSON CREEK RETREAT

"Natural beauty and pioneer history are the touchstones of Anderson Creek Retreat," says Doug David, general partner of the family partnership responsible for the community. "We have over 1,000 acres of mountaintops, ridges and creek valleys with preserved pioneer homesteads, creek corridors and botanically sensitive areas. These permanently protected places are connected by a network of trails so they can be enjoyed by families and friends. Our covenants ensure that the land will be managed for the long-term benefit of both the environment and the property owners." For more information, log onto [www.andersoncreekretreat.com](http://www.andersoncreekretreat.com).

RECENT SALES:

- 3.01 acres, \$155,000, wooded site next to Spring Preserve
- 3.13 acres, \$160,000, wooded site, meadow, views to Rich Mountain Wilderness
- 8.86 acres, \$350,000, pasture, hardwoods, sunset views

THINGS TO DO:

"There's Amicalola Falls, the Cohutta Wilderness, Rich Mountain Wilderness ..." Elton Ashford lists quickly, "along with the arts and crafts in Ellijay and Blue Ridge, vineyards and apple festivals and terrific trout fishing, hunting on Forest Service land ... it's just a great launching point for the outdoors."

Within Anderson Creek Retreat there's an easily accessed 17-acre mountain lake and stream. "We've made so many memories around the lake, including watching our daughter catch her first fish," says Catherine. Elton adds, "Our daughter said it best — 'I think of it as family time' — and so it is. I believe we just get closer here, and you can't have anything better than that."

GETTING THERE

From downtown Atlanta: Take I-75 north to I-575, which becomes Ga. 515. In Ellijay, turn right at Ga. 52 east. At Roy Road, turn left. Follow to three-way stop and turn right onto Bucktown Road. Go 1.3 miles to Spring Camp Road, and turn right into Anderson Creek Retreat.

*Do you have a vacation home? We'd like to learn about it and see some photos. Send us an email at [vacation@ajchomefinder.com](mailto:vacation@ajchomefinder.com) with the details of your home and include some family snapshots that really show it off.*

"I can stay on Anderson Creek property and ride my horse Blaze for two hours without retracing my tracks."

Catherine Ashford, Anderson Creek homeowner

Wooded family retreat a perfect fit

By C.W. CAMERON / For the Journal-Constitution

**Who:** Audrey, Catherine and Elton Ashford

**What:** A southern vernacular farmhouse cottage on just under five acres in Ellijay with three bedrooms and two baths. Outdoor living space includes a front porch, open deck and 20-foot-by-20-foot covered porch with stone fireplace.

**When they moved in:** Working with architect Bill Tucker and builder Tim Hall, it took about two years to build the custom-designed home. The Ashfords moved in August 2006.

**How long does it take to get there?** It's 50 minutes from their home in north Alpharetta.

**How often do they get there?** Just about every weekend.

**How they selected the community:** Elton says, "We had the idea we wanted a mountain place and looked for about two years. One day I found a postcard from Anderson Creek in the mailbox. When I read the card, I felt I

could have written it myself, it was that close to what we were looking for. I stopped in the driveway and called the number, introduced myself and was invited to lunch that weekend with the developer and his wife. Everything they said was truly right on the money. We knew this was the right place."

**What was the message?** "It's about having minimal impact on the environment. It's amazing how fast landscapes can change. We see that all the time in Alpharetta," says Elton. "We really got into the Anderson Creek concept of preserving the land, having lots of hiking and walking trails and building homes that are thoughtfully placed so they fit into this wild area," adds Catherine.

**And there's a place for their horse:** "I can stay on Anderson Creek property and ride my horse Blaze for two hours without retracing my tracks, or I can go beyond that onto USDA Forest Service land. Through the Anderson Creek Saddle Club, property owners can

purchase an interest in the 20 acres of fenced pasture and barn. Now I don't have to put my horse into a trailer, and that is real appealing to me," says Catherine.

**Getting to know the neighbors:** "Our neighbors are the most interesting people. We're all very different, but there's such a fascinating dynamic here. We hosted a wild game supper last spring and it was a terrific way to get to know the neighbors. The conversation was fascinating. We all have the same common interest, a love for the land and nature," says Elton.

**Will they retire there?** "We didn't go into it thinking we would retire here, but once we bought the property, we knew this was where we'd want to be," says Elton. Catherine adds, "That was a large part of our decision about the type and size of house we built. We have an unfinished basement, for example, that was designed for expansion and could add 1,200 to 1,500 square feet."

View more photos of this home and search for your own vacation home online at [ajchomefinder.com](http://ajchomefinder.com).

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