

SOLID GOLD: 15 SMART MONEY MOVES

PINNACLE LIVING
MOUNTAIN HOMES
SOUTHERN • STYLE

Rustic Chic!

Log Homes with Class

Eagles Nest, Forever Young

92 Getaway Communities

Beautiful Home Winners, **MOSSCREEK**

Inside An Enchanted Garden:
One Man's Virginia Eden





A community drawing card, the handsome pavilion at The Great Camp serves as the center for fun events at Eagles Nest, including the weekly barbecue.

Forever Young



Amenities Designed by

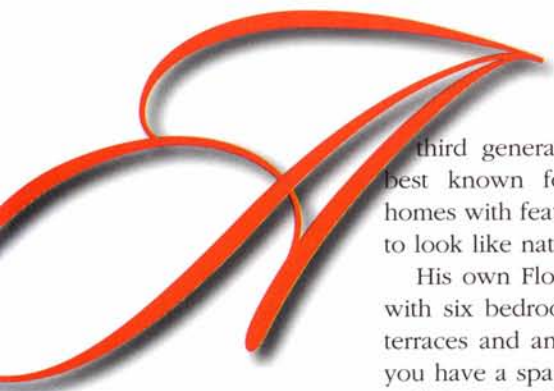
MOSSCREEK

WWW.MOSSCREEK.NET
800.737.2166

**BY SARAH THOMAS
PHOTOS BY TODD BUSH**

If Peter Pan had grown up and become a developer, he'd probably be a lot like John Turchin. With a perpetual grin and the phrase, "I live life to the fullest," always on his lips, he flies around his 1,300-acre development in Banner Elk, N.C. in his own style: via a huge black Humvee. Not surprisingly, he's having fun the whole way.

At *Eagles Nest*



Third generation Floridian, John Turchin is best known for building spectacular Miami homes with features like moats and pools made to look like natural lakes.

His own Florida home is 13,000 square feet with six bedrooms, seven baths, three rooftop terraces and an aviary. Oh, and it's for sale, if you have a spare \$22 million.

But that kind of over-the-top luxury isn't what Turchin is after in North Carolina's Banner Elk. His development, The Lodges at Eagles Nest, in Turchin's words "is a camp for grown-ups . . . a really nice camp."

The Carolina Connection

Turchin first saw North Carolina in the early '70s when his family came up for a vacation and fell in love with the mountains.

Today, his parents live in a nearby community and are deeply involved in Appalachian State University, where his father Robert Turchin

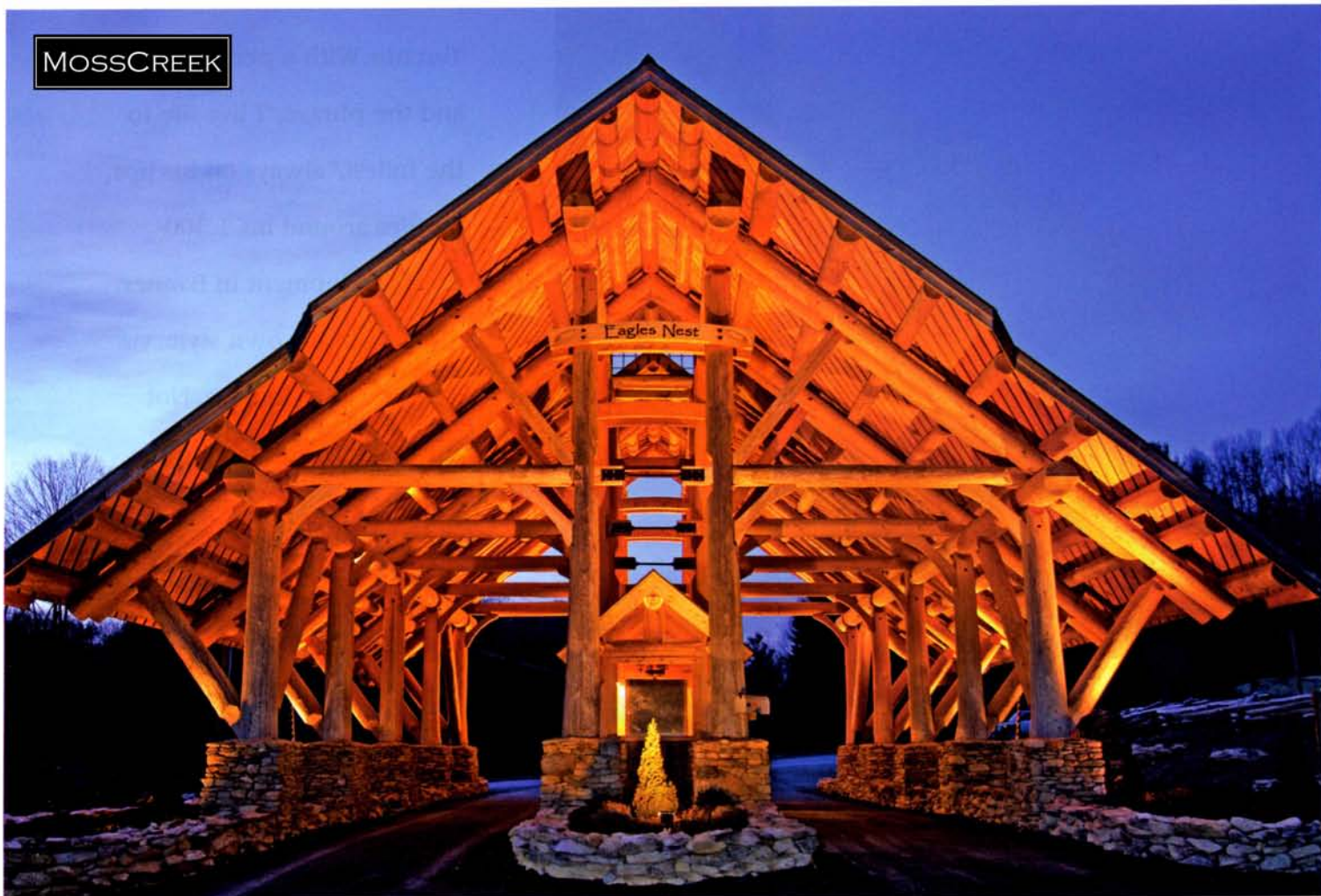
– also a legendary Miami developer – is an honorary football coach and, at the age of 85, continues to travel to all the games with the team. His mother, Lillian Athey Turchin, is an artist whose vivid paintings have been gathered into a book, "The Art of Lillian Turchin."

In 1999, Turchin bought a home in Banner Elk and began spending more time there with his wife and two children. Following a four-wheeler accident in which he broke both legs, he was approached with an offer to buy 260 acres of a nearby mountain. It seemed like a good idea at the time.

And, when visiting friends and business associates kept trying to buy his personal house, Turchin decided he might as well build – and sell – lots of houses.

Like Topsy, It Just Grew

To provide easier access to the development, Turchin purchased additional land, and as he



MOSSCREEK

A beautiful indication of things to come, the entrance to Eagles Nest offers residents and guests a striking architectural greeting on arrival.

continued to add amenities that required more acreage, he finally had the full 1,300-acre playground.

These days, Turchin divides his time between Banner Elk and Miami, with trips to his development on Rum Cay in the Bahamas thrown in for good measure. And, as he notes, wherever he is, that's where he wants to be.

When Turchin is at Eagles Nest, he couldn't be happier watching as his plans come to fruition.

Currently The Lodges at Eagles Nest has 12 homes under constructions in all various stages. The common area includes a Toy Barn filled with mountain bikes, motor cross equipment,

bow & arrows and many other outdoor sports equipment. Every weekend the community has an open house with the best BBQ in Banner Elk from 2 p.m. to sundown with live music at the amphitheatre. Guests can play horse shoe games, hike, rock climb or just relax and enjoy the fresh mountain air.

Something For Everyone

The library has been completed and is currently being stocked with books. The ball park has also been completed and residents are looking forward to their first games there this summer.

On July 1st, Eagles Nest held its first annual

4th of July celebration benefiting the Banner Elk Fire Department, with proceeds going toward the purchase of a new fire engine. For the occasion, the community had an all-star band, special events and an estimated crowd of more than 1,000 people.

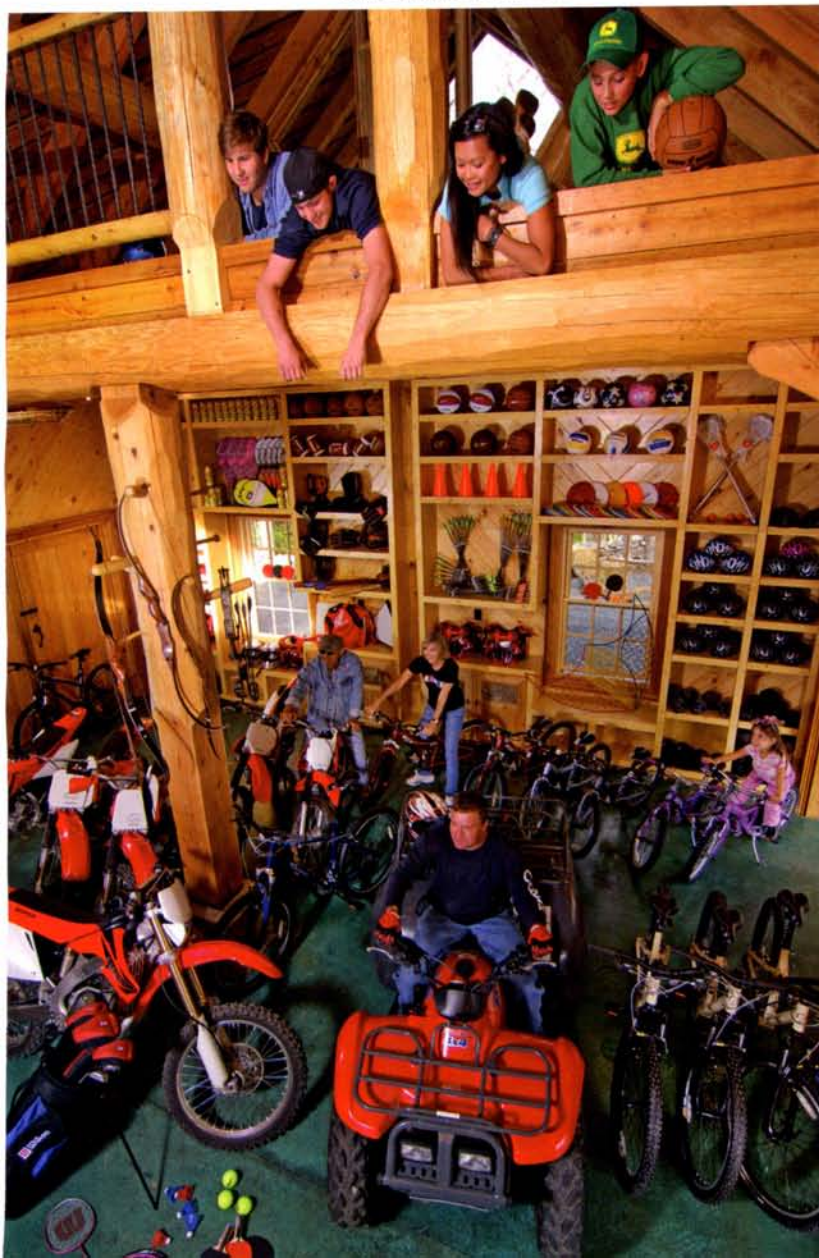
Of particular appeal to many at Eagles Nest, the equestrian center is up and running. Barns are being built and the horses are set up and available to ride every day.

There are rock walls winding their way up the mountain. Eighteen hundred-

MOSSCREEK

WWW.MOSSCREEK.NET
800.737.2166

Perfect for kids of all ages, the Toy Barn, located in the common area at Eagles Nest, provides the young and the young-at-heart with goodies and gadgets to fill an afternoon with fun.



John Turchin, the developer of Eagles Nest, basks in the glory of his dream community, a place designed specifically for good times and outdoor adventure.

square-foot “cabins” being completed. A house taking shape against the curving face of a mountainous boulder. A crane working at a site on the tip of a ridge with nearly 360-degree views. And his horses rolling in the green pastures on the back of the development.

A Most Happy Fellow

This is a man who is content with his place in the world.

He’s also a man who’s enthusiastic about sharing his place with people who will appreciate it.

“This isn’t for everybody,” he says, patting his yellow lab Bimini on the head. “But for the right person, Eagles Nest is a dream come true.”

For one thing, there’s no golf course here. In fact, Turchin says the closest you’ll come is heading up to the top of the ridge and seeing how far into the valley you can knock a ball (also known as a driving range). What the development does offer is a dirt track for motor-bikes – snowmobiles in winter – a shooting range, spa services, skiing and fly-fishing.

“This is my dream about having fun,” he laughs.



The living room of the model home at Eagles Nest carries out the rustic theme that is dominant throughout the entire development.

Meant For Good Times

His idea of fun really takes shape in the heart of the development, about halfway up the front of the mountain at The Great Camp. This is where Turchin’s vision of his childhood camp experiences comes to life.

There’s a great, grassy field where he can already see children running and playing while their parents look on. (Helicopters can also land here). There’s the Toy Barn, which is just what it sounds like – a barn filled with every toy imaginable from Frisbees to tricked-out mountain bikes. And Turchin’s only requirement for using a toy: that it’s returned in the same condition in which it was borrowed.



The model home has two garages and plenty of porch area to enjoy the forever-changing mountain views, providing potential homeowners with an idea of the special touches a typical home here might feature.