



HISTORICAL VIEW

In 1969, a 10,000-acre tract of land known as The Big Survey, located in the heart of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains and home to a wide variety of forestry, timberland, and wildlife, was purchased by a group of investors. Within a few years, Cabot, Cabot & Forbes of Boston purchased The Big Survey, and the planning of Wintergreen began. The Sea Pines Company soon joined the group to plan and market the area and a new community.

By 1975, the grounds sported a large ski area, consisting of eight slopes and three chairlifts, which opened with much fanfare and Virginia Governor Mills E. Godwin in attendance. The resort's first restaurant, The Copper Mine, was open to the public only during the winter months.

The following year, however, Melba Investors, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Bankers Trust Co. of New York acquired Wintergreen from Cabot, Cabot & Forbes, and Mr. L.F. Payne founded Wintergreen Development, Inc. to operate the resort and serve as the developer and managing agent.

Within a year, the resort could beckon summer vacationers and residents with the completion of the new Ellis Maples-designed Devils Knob golf course (June 1977) and the opening of the mountain tennis center (June 1978). In January 1978, Wintergreen hosted its first Winter Special Olympics. There was also an ongoing plant transplantation project, which began to save native plant species, and use them in the resort's landscaping.

It wasn't long before the Mountain Inn and Conference Center was completed (December 1980), allowing the resort, now owned and managed by Wintergreen Partners, Inc. (WPI), to host conferences and meetings, expand its target markets, and begin the trend of becoming a year-round vacation destination. Since then, the resort has added many features and amenities, including:

- 1984 The first Wintergarden Spa opens in October.
- 1985 Mrs. Lyndon Johnson arrives in June to dedicate the Wildflower Park in tribute to the preservation of Wintergreen's native plants.
- 1986 Plans for the 2,000-acre Rockfish Valley development known as Stoney Creek are announced in May.
- 1988 Stoney Creek golf course and clubhouse hold their grand opening on Memorial Day.
- 1989 WPI sells the Wintergreen Utility Company to the Nelson County Service Authority in June. In December, the 37,000-square-foot Skyline Pavilion opens, housing a restaurant, ski and conference facilities and the administrative offices.
- 1990 The June issue of Golf Digest announces its selection of Wintergreen's Stoney Creek golf course as one of the two "Best New Resort Courses in the County." Three new hard-surface tennis courts are added to the Devils Knob tennis center. The Treehouse, home of Wintergreen's children's programs, opens in December.

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- 1992 In May, the Trillium Field, originally zoned for condominium development, is dedicated as a preservation area. In October, Wintergreen hosts the Walton Family Reunion, and the Walton Museum is established. The popular TV series was based on *Spencer's Mountain*, a novel by Earl Hamner, Jr. about his life growing up during the Great Depression in Nelson County.
- 1993 In September, the Mountain Inn and Blackrock Village Center reopen after extensive renovation. Also open that month are the newly redesigned Treehouse and Blue Ridge Terrace.
- 1994 In April, WPI donates more than 6,000 acres of land to the Wintergreen Property Owners Association; the land will be a protected natural forestland for use in research and education. That same month, the Wintergreen Nature Foundation is established. In December, additional compressors are installed and the snowmaking system is upgraded to increase snowmaking capability under marginal weather conditions. Snowmaking capability is increased by 50 percent.
- 1995 A terrain park opens for snowboarders and skiers.
- 1996 Wintergreen hosts its first annual Performing Arts Festival. The resort launches its first web site.
- 1997 The first annual Summer Music Festival is held. The Devils Knob golf clubhouse and the Devils Grill restaurant are completed.
- 1998 The tennis pavilion opens, offering year-round tennis to members and resort guests. The Rees Jones-designed Tuckahoe nine course opens in May at Stoney Creek. The Wintergarden Spa and Fitness Center opens, following a complete renovation and expansion.
- 2001 The Blue Ridge Express, a high-speed, six-passenger chairlift and The Plunge snowtubing park open.
- 2002 The Lookout, a multi-purpose guest services center, and The Slide snowtubing park both open. A new cross trail opens. The resort installs a new, computerized York® automated snowmaking system.
- 2003 Renovation of Devils Knob golf course is complete, including new forward tees, the rebuilding of 44 bunkers and the installation of a computer-controlled irrigation system. In the winter, Wintergreen becomes the only ski area in North America to have computer-controlled snowmaking on 100 percent of its terrain. A magic carpet lift is installed at The Plunge snowtubing park.
- 2004 The Highlands Express, the resort's second high-speed, six-passenger chairlift opens in the Highlands expert terrain area.
- 2005 The new Spa at Wintergreen opens, offering breathtaking panoramic views and even more services – including massages, body wraps, skin care treatments and nail care. That winter, the resort opens The Outer Limits, a new 2,200-foot-long, single-black-diamond slope on the Highlands.

Since opening, Wintergreen Resort has hosted many annual events, including the first three years of the Tour DuPont, America's premier cycling event (1991-1993), and has won numerous service awards, including the American Hotel and Motel Association's National Environmental Achievement Award (June 1987).