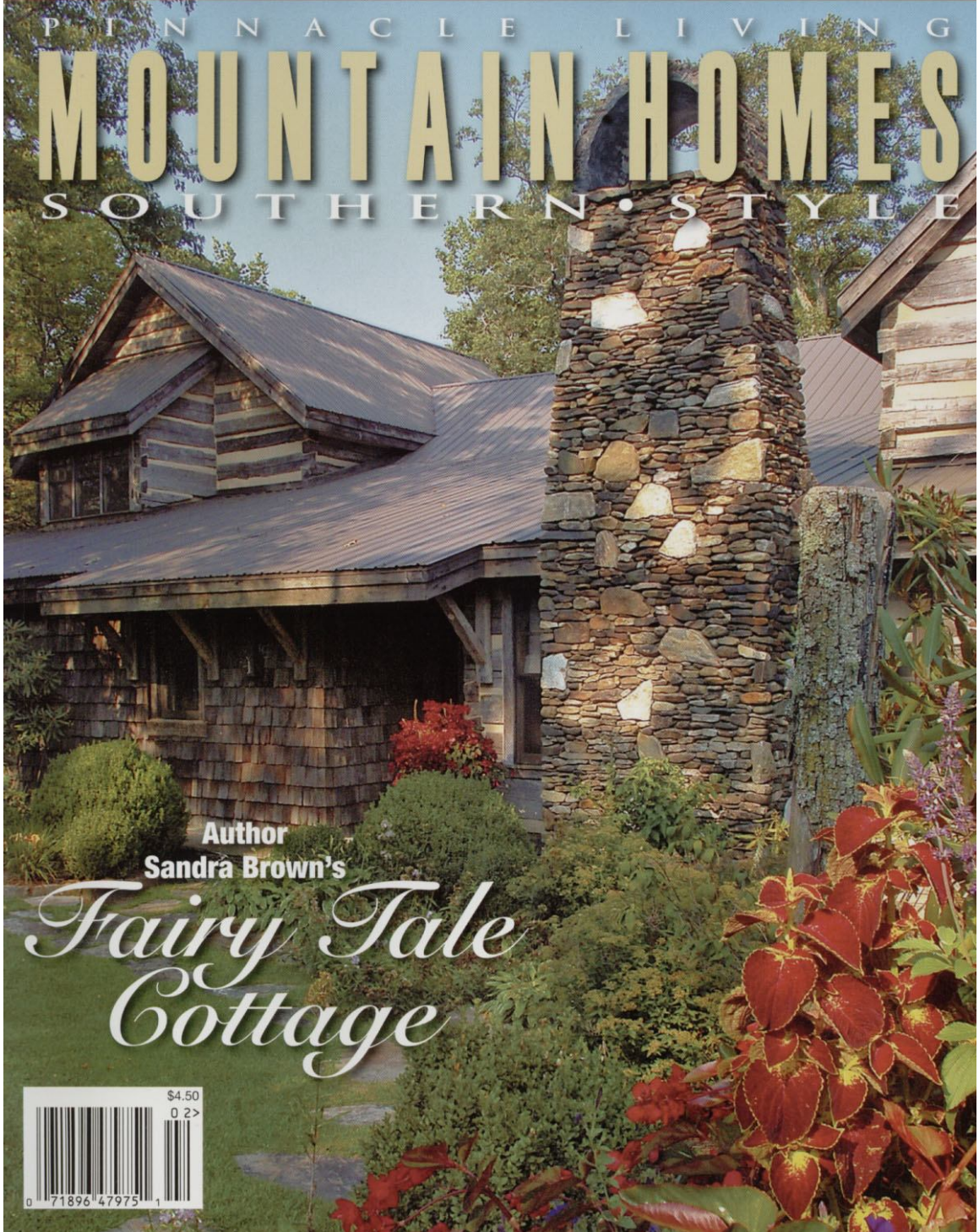


2008 Annual Guide to The Best Communities & Towns

P I N N A C L E L I V I N G
MOUNTAIN HOMES
S O U T H E R N • S T Y L E



Author
Sandra Brown's

*Fairy Tale
Cottage*





The golf course at Balsam Mountain Preserve is surrounded by picturesque scenery, including land protected by a conservation easement.

Balsam Mountain Preserve, Sylva, N.C. – Of its 4,400 stunning acres, 3,000 will remain undisturbed and protected by a conservation easement. Managed and maintained by the non-profit Balsam Mountain Trust, the preserved land includes open green spaces, lush forest, wildlife habitats and 38 miles of pristine streams. Other portions of the land divide the 354 home sites. The community, which opened in 2003, also boasts a nature center with knowledgeable naturalists who offer guided hikes and mountain bike rides for exploring the beautiful surroundings, and educational bird-watching excursions. 866-452-3456; balsammountainpreserve.com.

Homestead Preserve, Hot Springs, Va. – On the day 11,500 acres of land were purchased for the Homestead Preserve, developers dedicated 9,250 acres to the Nature Conservancy to protect them from future development. In 2004, an additional 935 acres of the lush wooded area and open pastures were placed into a permanent conservation easement with the Virginia

Outdoors Foundation. Of the remaining property, no more than 325 acres, where homes are tucked into the natural surroundings, will ever be developed. Homeowners can take advantage not only of resort-style amenities at the historic Homestead, but 100 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails throughout the preserved property as well. 866-534-5450; homesteadpreserve.com.

The Preserve at English Mountain, Sevierville, Tenn. – Developers at The Preserve at English Mountain have taken conservation a step further by not only setting aside 1,200 acres to remain unspoiled, but also carefully planning the entire layout of the property: Roads were designed to remain hidden, cut trees were used to control soil runoff, and developers plan to reforest the roadside borders with native foliage. Restrictions on house size, material, height and color offer privacy that complements the natural landscape, and residents can use a 1,100-acre wilderness conservation area for hiking, nature walks and to explore the majestic peaks of the Great Smoky Mountains. 888-877-8439; englishmountainpreserve.com.

The Preserve at Little Pine, Marshall, N.C. – Located on 1,800 acres, this park-like community will preserve approximately 15 acres for every homesite (85 percent of the land) through protective covenants and a conservation easement managed by the Smoky Mountain National Land Trust. With their private homes tucked into the mountain wilderness, homeowners can explore the old-growth forest, wetlands, meandering streams and high mountain meadows on guided hikes, mountain biking excursions or on horseback. 866-658-8441; littlepine.info.

Homes nestled into the natural environment of Homestead Preserve boast views of lush wooded areas, open pastures and mountain peaks.

