

Chamber Chronicles

The official source of Towns County Chamber News

Wednesday January 13, 2010

Angel's Chamber Messages



Community Events

Old Fashioned Square Dance

Join us each Monday in Hiawassee, at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center (two blocks behind - south of the town square, beside the Courthouse, 48 River St.). Old Fashioned Square Dance lessons are free. This is not Western Square Dance but rather Big Circle (shew-fly, grapevine, etc.) with basic clogging demos. Help us revive this lost art, come once or every lesson. Sponsor: Towns County Historical Society, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA (706) 896-1060.

2010 Friends of the Library officers



Jan Roberts, Co-Treasurer; Jan Manuszak, Co-Treasurer; Chris Thompson, Co-Recording Secretary; Maureen Gustafson, Co-Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary; Doris Tilly, Vice-President; Marilyn Pierce, 2010 President; Janice Cochran, Past President; and Jounida Bradley, Regional Friends of the Library Director.

Officers gear up for a productive and successful 2010 and welcome all that will join in supporting the Towns County Friends of the Library. The meetings are at 10:30 AM on the first Tuesday in February, April, June, August, October and December at the

Mountain Regional Library in Young Harris.

The first event of the year is to attend Georgia Library Day on February 25 at the Capitol in Atlanta. Legislators and other public officials will meet with the Georgia Library Media

Association and Georgia Friends of the Library to hear library issues facing the 2010 legislature. Find out more by logging on to the Georgia Library Media website or contact Donna Howell, Mountain Regional Library Director. TJJan14B2JSH

TVA schedules Blue Ridge Dam repair project

TVA will lower water levels on Blue Ridge Reservoir for approximately six months beginning in July for repairs and safety upgrades to Blue Ridge Dam.

The project will bring the 79-year-old facility up to current seismic safety standards. Work will include repair and stabilization of the upstream face of the dam, stabilization of the downstream face of the dam, repairs to the penstock - the large pipe that carries water from the reservoir to the turbines in the dam - and stabilization of the tower on the upstream side of the dam that manages the intake of water.

"These repairs are necessary to continue safe operation of Blue Ridge Dam for flood control, water supply, hydroelectric power generation and recreation, both in the reservoir and in the tail waters around the dam," said Janet Herrin, TVA senior vice president for river operations. "This project should eliminate the need for future deep draw-downs for periodic inspections and will increase the safety and reliability of the dam at the same time."

The work will require that the water level in the reservoir be lowered to an elevation range between 1,620 feet and

1,630 feet for approximately six months. This will be about 48 feet below the normal winter pool and 67 feet below the average summer levels. Safe operation of the dam requires the draw down to occur slowly over a period of three to four months beginning in mid-July.

"We understand the inconvenience of the deep draw-down to the residents of Blue Ridge and have chosen a start date that will allow public use of the reservoir through part of the recreation season," said Wayne Oliver, Blue Ridge Dam rehabilitation project manager. "Lowering the levels during a period of minimum expected runoff should ensure we can maintain the low elevation required for repairs and reduce the risk of construction delays."

Oliver added that the timing also should allow TVA to take advantage of spring rains in 2011 and more quickly refill the reservoir to normal elevation. Refilling the reservoir will take approximately four to five months, depending on rainfall. TVA expects water levels to most likely return to normal in the late summer of 2011.

TVA will also close Old Georgia Highway 76 over the Blue Ridge Dam starting in mid-July for the duration of

construction. This is to ensure the safety of the public and workers at the site, where large equipment will be used and materials stored. Road repairs will be made to the highway before it reopens at the completion of the project, scheduled for the end of September 2012. Alternate traffic routes will be determined by state and local authorities.

A final environmental assessment of the project is available on TVA's Web site at www.tva.gov/environment/reports/blue_ridge_dam.

Blue Ridge Dam, located in Fannin County, was completed in 1931 by Tennessee Electric Power Company and was acquired by TVA in 1939. It is 175 feet high, 950 feet wide and stretches 1,000 feet across the Toccoa River.

TVA is the nation's largest public power provider and is completely self-financing. TVA provides power to large industries and 157 power distributors that serve approximately 9 million consumers in seven southeastern states. TVA also creates economic development opportunities and manages the Tennessee River and its tributaries to provide multiple benefits, including flood damage reduction, navigation, water quality and recreation. NTJJan13A17Jae

Fiddler & Folklorist Alan Jabbour in concert at Folk School



Fiddler and folklorist Alan Jabbour will appear in concert at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N.C. at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 15. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations are welcome.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida and a classically trained violinist, Alan Jabbour

became interested in American fiddle styles as a graduate student at Duke University. He traveled in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, recording instrumental folk music, folksong, and folklore on tape. This collection, particularly rich in traditional fiddle tunes from the Upper South, is now in the Archive of Folk Culture at the Library of Congress.

The documentation trips developed into an apprenticeship to master fiddler Henry Reed, who was then in his eighties. In 1968, the year of Henry Reed's death, Jabbour and The Hollow Rock String Band released a long-playing record, Traditional Dance Tunes, which has had a strong influence on several succeeding generations of fiddlers and banjo players.

In 1976 Alan Jabbour became the founding director

of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress, continuing in that position for twenty-three years before retiring from federal service in 1999. To mark his retirement, he established the Henry Reed Fund for Folk Artists, named for his mentor and dedicated to projects in support of folk artists, especially those represented in the collections of the American Folklife Center.

Upcoming Folk School concerts include hammered dulcimer virtuoso Ken Koldner (Thursday, January 21) and The Frogtown Four (January 29). The Folk School concert schedule is available on the world wide web at <http://www.folkschool.org>.

For further information, call the Folk School at 828-837-2775 or 1-800-FOLKSCH. NT JJan13A6Jae

Chancey Hill Inn Bed & Breakfast Announces Open House for all Chamber Members

Chancey Hill Inn B&B is hosting a Grand Open House for all Towns County Chamber of Commerce members on Thursday, January 14th from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. John and Dale Harmon have renovated the old Mountain Memories Bed & Breakfast on Chancey Drive. They still offer the same beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and Lake Chatuge, but have updated the Inn with new interiors and a new style. They

invite you to come and check out their beautiful B&B and enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres, beautiful surroundings and great company. They are located on 385 Chancey Drive in Hiawassee.

Directions: From the Chamber, go East through Hiawassee on Hwy 76. Turn Left on Bell Street (Between Linda's and Eller's Garage). Turn Right on Chancey Hill Road. Call (706) 896-8424.

Member Calendar of Events

Jan. 16, 23, 30 at 8 p.m. - The Problem with Pluto at Rollins Planetarium. For details call (706) 379-3111 or www.yhc.edu

Jan. 17 at 5:30 p.m. - Holman Water Quality Stewardship Award Banquet & Silent Auction at Brasstown Valley Resort. For reservations call (828) 837-5414 or www.hrwc.net/banquet.htm

Feb. 7th at 2:30 p.m. - Moscow Nights & Golden Gates at the Peacock Playhouse. Call (828) 389-2595 for tickets and details.

Member Benefit of the Month

Discounted Insurance! As a member of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce, you will have the buying power of a large company through Member Care Alliance. Contact the Chamber at (706) 896-4966 for more details.

Member Spotlight - Green to Bean Coffee Roasters

We are a wholesale coffee roaster and import only top quality current crop coffee beans from around the world. We roast your coffee when the order is placed ensuring the freshest coffee for you or your customer. Please give us a call for details with placing your business order.

Our goal is to deliver quality, value and an enjoyable customer experience with every bean of coffee we roast.

We want to establish

a relationship that not only provides our customers with the coffee they desire but also the respect they deserve.

724 Thurman Drive
Hiawassee, GA 30546
(706) 896-4524 Office
(706) 896-1824 Fax
www.greentobean.com

If you would like us to shine a spotlight on your business, call or e-mail us at the Chamber at (706) 896-4966 or info@mountaintopga.com.

Candidates speak to Towns County GOP



Republicans in Towns County continue to be amazed at the quality of candidates running for Georgia state offices. At every regular first Tuesday of the month meeting, two or three of these persons speak to the local GOP group. Every Republican candidate for every elected office will have spoken in Towns County by the time elections roll around.

In 2010, state-wide elections will be held for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Labor and School Superintendent.

Presenting their platforms at the January meeting

were Ralph Hudgens, running for state Insurance Commissioner and Raymond George running for District Attorney (not a state-wide office).

Seven Republican and one Democrat are vying for the position of Georgia Insurance Commissioner. Ralph Hudgens has 6 years experience in the Georgia House and 8 years as state Senator. He says that six words define him as a person: Christian, family man, business man and conservative.

The office of Insurance Commissioner has very little to do with healthcare. Rather, it is an administrative office charged with carrying out policies as voted on by the General Assembly and signed

by the Governor. Having been in the administration field his entire life, Hudgens says he is the only person qualified for this position.

Raymond George is an attorney in Dahlonega with 30 years of experience in the field of law enforcement with the Army, as a street level police officer, as a trial attorney and as Chief Assistant District Attorney. Concerning the issues, he says where he stands can be defined in four words: duty, honor, family and justice. One of his goals is to reduce the waste of tax dollars by instituting a number of cost saving measures in the District Attorney's office. George's pledge is to serve his constituents to the best of his ability and return common sense and reason to the District Attorney's office.

Towns County Republican Party meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at Daniel's Steak House in Hiawassee. Republican meetings are open to everyone, of any political persuasion. Although the meetings official begin at 6 PM sharp, many arrive early to enjoy an evening meal with their friends. The next meeting Tuesday, February 2. TJJan14B2JSH

Winter tips from American Red Cross

As temperatures drop across our region, the Northeast Georgia Chapter is urging residents to take steps to guard against hypothermia and other emergencies common during severely cold weather.

"Winter can be a beautiful time of year in Northeast Georgia but it also brings quiet dangers such as brutally cold temperatures," said Larry Tyson, Director of Disaster Services of the Northeast Georgia Chapter American Red Cross. "Everyone, especially senior citizens and children, should take precautions to guard against hypothermia this winter, and the Red Cross can help."

Severely cold weather may cause hypothermia, a serious condition that predominantly affects young children and people over the age of 60. Symptoms of hypothermia include: confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. Seek medical attention immediately if you have these symptoms.

The American Red Cross offers these tips to stay safe this winter:

Protect Yourself:
Dress in several layers of lightweight clothing, which will keep you warmer than a single heavy coat.

Mittens provide more warmth to your hands than gloves.

Most of your body heat is lost through your head. Wear a hat, preferably one that covers your ears.

Seek medical attention immediately if you have symptoms of hypothermia including: confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering.

Seek medical attention immediately if you have symptoms of frostbite including: numbness, flushed gray, white, blue or yellow skin discoloration, numbness, or skin that appears waxy feeling skin.

Wear waterproof, insulated boots to keep your feet warm and dry and to maintain your footing in ice and snow.

Remove wet clothes immediately and help warm your core body temperature by wrapping yourself in a blanket

or drinking warm fluids like hot cider or soup.

Take frequent breaks and stay hydrated.

Avoid drinking caffeine or alcohol if you think you might have hypothermia or frostbite.

Protect Yourself at Home: Be careful with candles - Do not use candles for lighting if the power goes out. Use flashlights only.

Inspect fireplaces and wood stoves yearly - Use a sturdy fire screen with lit fires. Burn only wood - never burn paper or pine boughs.

Use generators correctly - Never operate a generator inside your home, including the basement or garage. Do not hook up a generator directly to your home's wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not hook up a generator directly to your home's wiring.

Prevent frozen pipes - When the weather is very cold outside, open cabinet doors to let warm air circulate around water pipes. Let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water running through it is above freezing. Keep the thermostat set to a consistent temperature.

Check smoke alarms - Make sure alarms are working properly and replace batteries as necessary.

Be aware of overuse of electrical outlets - Don't overload your electrical outlets. Be careful that extension cords don't create hazardous walkways.

The Northeast Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross has additional resources available on our website at www.negaredcross.org or www.redcross.org.

American Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, almost a million volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims

of almost 75,000 disasters; taught lifesaving skills to millions; and helped U.S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost 4 million people gave blood through the Red Cross, the largest supplier of blood and blood products in the United States. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work. NTJJan13A2JSH

ArtWorks class schedule

Thursday, January 21 - 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. - Paint a Winter Scene in Watercolor on Japanese Rice Paper with Instructor Verlee Jones. 8" x 10" matted Painting Project is on display at ArtWorks. Class fee \$10; Supply fee \$10. Last day to register - January 18, 2010.

Private lessons are also available for adults and children (\$25 - \$50 per hour). We will do our best to find you a teacher for whatever art or craft you would enjoy learning more about!

Set your own date and time for a Beginning Quilting Class with Instructor Marilyn Bostrom. The Class Fee is \$40; supplies are provided for \$28.

Check with the Store Worker for further information. Children are also welcome to take this class.

Set your own date and time for a Wire Wrap Class with Instructor Evelyn Gantner. The Class Fee is \$38; supplies are provided for \$30. Check with the Store Worker for further information. NTJJan13,14A1JSH