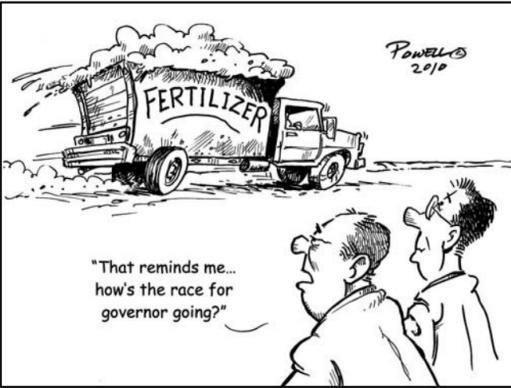


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



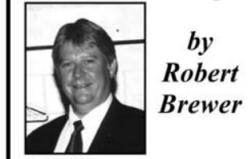
Letters to The Editor

A Little Good News

A desire for a better world, maybe something of the past. But I would love to wake up to....

"I rolled out this morning kids had on the morning news, Brian Gobel was talking about the fighting in Lebanon. Some Senator was talking about the bad economy, It's going to get worse you see, need a change in policy. There's a local paper rolled up in a rubber band, One more sad story is one more than I could stand. Just once how I'll like to see the headlines say, "Not much to print today, can't find nothing bad to say". Because nobody robbed a liquor store On the lower part of town, nobody OD, Nobody burned a separate building, Nobody fired a shot in anger, and nobody died in vain. Sure could use A Little Good News, today. I came home this evening, I bet that the news will be the same, Somebody takes a hostage, somebody steals a plane. How I want to hear the anchor man talk about a county fair, How we cleaned out the air, And how everybody learned to care. Oh, tell me nobody was assassinated in the Whole third world today, In the streets of Ireland all the children had to do was play, And everybody loves everybody in the good ole U.S.A. We really could use some Good News, today.. " *"Little Good News". Sung by Anne Murray in 1983. David Hoodenpyle Morganton, GA*

Extension Tips



by Robert Brewer

Black Walnut Toxicity to Plants, Humans and Horses: The roots of Black Walnut (Juglans nigra L.) and Butternut (Juglans cinerea L.)

produce a substance known as juglone (5-hydroxy-alpha-naphthoquinone). Persian (English or Carpathian) walnut trees are sometimes grafted onto black walnut rootstocks. Many plants such as tomato, potato, blackberry, blueberry, azalea, mountain laurel, rhododendron, red pine and apple may be injured or killed within the root zone of these trees. The toxic zone from a mature tree occurs on average in a 50 to 60 foot radius from the trunk, but can be up to 80 feet. The area affected extends outward each year as a tree enlarges. Young trees two to eight feet high can have a root diameter twice the height of the top of the tree, with susceptible plants dead within the root zone and dying at the margins.

Not all plants are sensitive to juglone. Many trees, vines, shrubs, ground covers, annuals and perennials will grow in close proximity to a walnut tree. Certain cultivars of "resistant" species are reported to do poorly. Black walnut has been recommended for pastures on hillsides of mountain regions. Trees hold the soil, prevent erosion and provide shade for cattle. The beneficial effect of black walnut on pastures in encouraging grasses appear to be valid as long as there is sufficient sun-

light and water.

Gardeners should carefully consider the planting site for black walnut, butternut, or Persian walnut seedlings grafted to black walnut rootstock, if other garden or landscape plants are to be grown with the root zone of mature trees. Persian walnut seedlings or trees grafted onto Persian walnut rootstock do not appear to have a toxic effect on other plants.

Horses may be affected by black walnut chips or sawdust when they are used for bedding material. Close association with walnut trees while pollen is being shed (typically in May) also produce allergic symptoms in both horses and humans. The juglone toxin occurs in the leaves, bark and wood of walnut, but these contain lower concentrations than in the roots. Juglone is poorly soluble in water and does not move very far in soil.

Walnut leaves can be composted because the toxin breaks down when exposed to air, water and bacteria. The toxic effect can be degraded in two to four weeks. In soil, breakdown may take up to two months. Black walnut leaves may be composted separately, and the finished compost tested for toxicity by planting tomatto seedlings in it. Sawdust mulch, fresh sawdust or chips from street tree prunings from black walnut are not suggested for plants sensitive to juglone, such as blueberry or other plants that are sensitive to juglone. However, composting of bark for a minimum of six months provides a safe mulch even for plants sensitive to juglone.

The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. TUM2.F45H

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Conventional wisdom holds that "one thing leads to another." Classical mechanics concurs: for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. In the course of human events, however, quantum mechanics or even chaos theory might be more useful for understanding what happens.

I was with my family in Gainesville yesterday, and after Sunday dinner we decided to make the most of the outing so we stopped by Brewster's, which is a fine little ice cream shop not far from Gainesville High School. Frozen yogurt is available, but the majority of the fare is not health food – it is soul food and sometimes what my soul requires is a banana split of a type widely available when I was a child; an unselfconscious dessert made fearlessly and with abandon, an honest treat unrestrained by calorie counting convention.

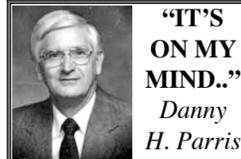
It may seem more than a quantum leap from physics to banana splits, but bear with me just a little further along the path. I am an affluent (compared with most of the world) American who grew up in a culture that enjoyed the fruits of many labors unconsciously and indeed quite innocently as a birthright. It would never have occurred to me as a child to consider the grasslands, the dairies, the banana plantations, the sugar cane plantations, the fertilizer (and the oil necessary to make it), the processing plants, the trucks and the highways and the chain of minimum wage and migrant workers necessary to deliver a simple treat to my drive-through indulgence.

As an adult, however, and one who had just read another disturbing account of the oil plume threatening to enter the Desoto canyon off the west coast of Florida and poison an entire food chain, I did notice the gigantic SUV (minus its single occupant) parked next to the ice cream shop, motor racing to cool the engine laboring to spin a gigantic air conditioner. Now don't get me wrong. I don't bicycle to work (a forty mile round trip) and I also own an SUV, but I don't leave it running, air conditioner on, for twenty minutes while I wait in line for ice cream when the temperature outside is 72 degrees. I just don't. And furthermore, like many Americans, I turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer; I turn off lights, recycle, drive slower and make fewer trips than I did ten years ago.

Unfortunately all of these simple measures, even if they were multiplied by a hun-

dred million more Americans, might not, probably will not, be enough to ward off the consequences of a generation of imbalance. The fish I had for dinner, if I can afford to have it again next year, will probably not come from the Gulf of Mexico. If there is a moratorium on offshore drilling, fewer Americans may be eating out or driving across town to get ice cream next year. Yet if we continue to "drill baby drill," the cost of our national dependency on petroleum may be washing up on a shoreline near you well into the future. In the realm of petroleum, the low hanging fruit is gone, even as demand for oil continues to increase. There isn't an abundance of \$80 per barrel oil left in the world, but there is a good bit of \$200 per barrel oil still out there. The oil that is left is deeper, harder to get to and more costly to extract. It is more costly in terms of dollars and it is more costly in terms of potential risks to the environment.

We have had this conversation before, and we need to revisit it again and again. We need to repeat it to our neighbors, our friends, and our family until an awareness finally takes hold that there are consequences for our choices. One thing leads to another, most assuredly, but the larger reality is that one thing leads to many things leads to one thing again and again. There is a connection between the empty SUV idling in the parking lot, the tons of recyclables littering the highways, our throw-away plastic container society and a plume of oil 6 miles wide and 22 miles long heading for the Florida coast and beyond. It is imperative that we make these connections. If we fail to understand how these things are linked together and live accordingly, the question will not be whether we will continue to have 26 flavors of ice cream or just three, or whether our new luxury car gets 22 miles per gallon instead of 18. If we continue to digest and excrete the planet in an effort to maintain our current level of energy and resource affluence – and to provide it to new billions desirous of the same – then the question will become how long will the food chain, which begins in the ocean, continue to support us? When leaving an SUV empty and idling in a parking lot becomes an obscenity instead of an assumed right, we will have achieved the beginnings of understanding.



"IT'S ON MY MIND.." Danny H. Parris

Gnats have always bothered me. We lived in South Georgia for about three years and I dreaded going outside because of the gnats. To live in South Georgia you must learn to blow gnats and walk on sand. I never learned either. Did you know that in the KJV of the Bible gnats are mentioned only once (Matthew 23:24). I know that gnats are small things but they can aggravate the devil into you. I suppose that this present generation is a gnat-gagging generation. We too gag at gnats and swallow camels. Little things don't motivate me to pray that much, they just mostly irritate me to mumble and grumble. However, we are living in a day of mega-major problems that should cause all of us to do some serious praying. Even though we live in the midst of dangerous and turbulent times we can't seem to escape the little things that gnaw at us every day. Another thing that bothers me is vegetable soup. That is, what is labeled vegetable soup. You know the kind you buy at the store, bring it home and when you examine the contents there are 4 beans, 3 peas, a piece of celery and the rest of the contents are carrots. Why don't they label it carrot soup? Now I love carrots but when I buy vegetable soup I don't expect carrot soup. And then there are those chicken pot pies and beef pot pies. Some of those pot pies are grossly mislabeled. I mean some of the most expensive brands exaggerate the most. You eat bread and vegetables until finally at the bottom of the pie you find under a large butter bean a piece of chicken or beef. Why don't they label them bread and vegetable pot pies? I am like the little old

lady that did the commercial on television. I want to scream out "Where's the chicken?" "Where's the beef?" Is there any truth in advertising? I have been bothered from childhood by those tags on mattresses that read in bold print "Do Not Remove Under Penalty of Law." Do you suppose there is some federal agency peeping into bedroom windows to catch you ripping off one of those tags? Boy, you had better not touch one of those tags! And then there are those fast food sound systems. I can never understand anything that is said. I just wait until there is silence and then I place my order. My brothers and I used to have a better communication system than most of these drive-thrus. I highly recommend it: two empty oil cans connected with a waxed string. One of my greatest irritations has to be windshield wipers. I have purchased all kinds and brands of windshield wipers: cheap ones, expensive ones, guaranteed for a life-time ones, etc. None of them seem to be worth the rubber with which they are made. It is a mystery to me that we can send men to the moon in vessels that are able to withstand unbelievable heat, pressure and elements of the universe but we can't produce a good windshield wiper. Forget about improved gas mileage give me a pair of good windshield wipers. Lastly, there is Dalmatian Theology – some so called Bible scholars who teach that the Bible is inspired in spots and they are inspired to spot the inspired spots. In this world of all these minor personal irritations and major threatening global explosions I point us all to that Holy Book that we know as the Bible. It informs us of the past, instructs us in the present and inspires us for the future. It tells us the truth and you will never be disappointed in its contents, it never has to be improved or updated. It lasts through all eternity!



Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.

Mountain Community Seniors meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiwassee at 2 p.m.

Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.

Towns County Republican Party meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 5 p.m.-6 p.m. Dinner at Daniels Steak House, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. meeting, 896-7281.

Towns County Planning Commission is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.

Towns County Commissioners meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.

School Board Meeting, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

Hiwassee City Council 1st Tuesday of month 4 p.m., at City Hall.

Young Harris City Council, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.

The Hiwassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 828-835-1082.

The Unicorn Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.

Board of Voter Registrars meets

the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.

Towns County Board of Elections holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Elections Office (Old Rock Jail).

Towns County Historical Society meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiwassee at 5 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiwassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Health Dept. Call Eden at 706-896-6921.

Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiwassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregarts-craftsguild@hotmail.com.

VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.

Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Goolsby Center at YHC. Q & A at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

FPL Retirees Breakfast will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Hole in the Wall Restaurant on the square in Blairsville at 9 a.m.

Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting.

Everyone welcome. www.ngatu692.com.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John Quinlan at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridge-mountains.

Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.

Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary on the 3rd Monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.

Old Fashioned Square Dance Lessons each Mon. in Hiwassee, GA, 6 p.m. at the Senior Center (2 blocks south of the town square, beside the Courthouse) Hiwassee, GA 706-896-1060

Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.

Mended Hearts Support Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at Chatuge Regional Hospital Cafeteria from 5:30-7 PM. For information contact 706-994-6988.

We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded ad would like to do so, Please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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