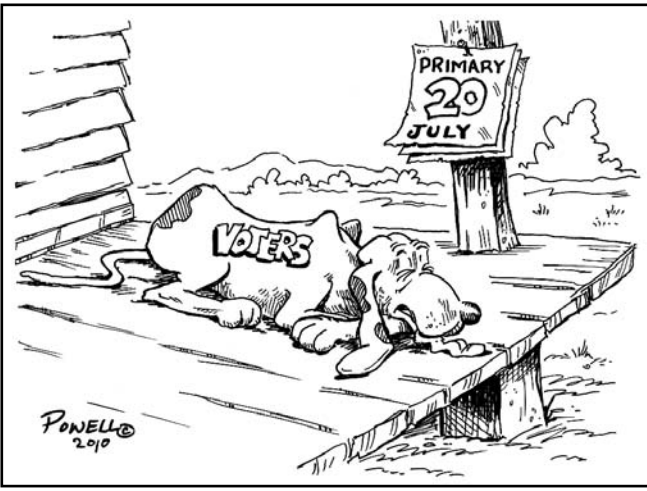


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

Letter To The Editor:

I would like to give praise to one of our four Fire Dept. employees, and also to two men from our Sheriff's Dept for an incident in my home. Walking into my bedroom I saw a four-foot black snake on the floor who immediately slithered under my desk. I called 911 and within minutes a "Fireman" came and entered the bedroom and closed the door. Soon after, two sheriff's deputies came to help and by that time the fireman had gotten the snake. My letter is to say that these three gentlemen who entered my home were the finest, most mannerly men one could hope to meet. I've been in this county for 28 years and I am grateful for the wonderful, caring people who take care of our county. Thank you so much.

Ella Angelillo
Young Harris, GA

Dear Editor,

On June 1, I received my April 28, Towns County Herald. On page 3C I was very interested in the article about the CCC reunion on May 8, 2010. There was a CCC Camp in Towns County located in the forest called Soapstone. I think it opened in 1933 and closed in late 1935. I have an aluminum bust of Pres. Roosevelt, the head and shoulders set into the name Roosevelt. The name is 10" wide. It was picked up at the camp by a friend of my Uncle Marvel Garrett and since my uncle was avidly opposed to Roosevelt, given to him as a joke. We were very opposite in our political beliefs but were very close to each other and he thanked his friend, telling him that when his niece came home from Seattle, she would be thrilled to have it and I certainly was. I would like to find out if these were in all CCC camps or if it was made in the shop at Soapstone. Maybe someone in Towns County will know. My brother Avery Garrett was in the camps and was transferred to one in Oregon and was there when the CCC was ended. My husband Earl Barrett was also in camp for 6 months in Fairy Stone National Park in Virginia. If you have any information about these busts, please contact the Towns County Herald at 706-896-4454.

Alva G. Barrett
Seattle, WA

Extension Tips



by
**Robert
Brewer**

Stay in water conservation mode, despite recent rains

Stay on odd, even cycle. Most Georgians have become accustomed to following an odd or even day schedule for watering their lawns. You should continue to keep on those schedules whether they are required by your local government or not.

However, just because it's your day to water, doesn't mean you have to. Your grass doesn't know what day it is, so if it doesn't need water, wait another day or two.

And most turfgrasses only need an inch of water per week. Some can survive on less.

Aside from keeping a watering schedule, here are several recommendations for saving water while maintaining your landscape:

Follow these tips:
If you need to fertilize, select a type of fertilizer with less nitrogen.

To save water, slack

off on fertilization so that you aren't increasing plant top growth. You don't need to stimulate your grass to grow when you're trying to save water.

Increase your mower height. In general, the lower your mowing height, the shallower your root system.

You want deeper roots with more soil volume to explore for water and nutrients.

Promote deeper plant roots by watering less often than normal.

Increase the duration between your irrigation sessions. This way you condition your grass to search deeper for water.

Think ahead to the future.

We're out of the drought now, but no one knows for how long. You have to keep pre-conditioning your lawn for the next drought and conserving water both for the short and long term.

Despite the recent abundance of rain water, remember water is still a precious resource.

You should keep the concept of saving water because it's a precious, precious resource. We need to insure that there's enough of it around in both wet and dry seasons.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Violence permeates our culture like salt does a country ham. Some would argue that violence has also preserved our nation from time to time in much the same way that salt prevents meat from being invaded by bacteria, but we are not here to discuss whether violence is right or wrong, simply that it is. As for my qualifications to discuss the subject I offer military service, a lifelong study of martial arts, a youth spent hunting and a number of friends in law enforcement; all subjects which include the use of force where appropriate.

A visitor to our planet could gain some insight into our violent nature by simply studying the language. Consider some of our popular expressions: "Killer" and "that's the bomb" are both used to express approval. When the alarm clock goes off at 5 AM we could kill for a cup of coffee. At the end of a long day, we crash. We are happy when our favorite team murders their opponents. Even political columnists refer to the "nuclear option."

I began thinking about the subject of violence a few days ago when I discovered a nest of hornets on the grape arbor immediately adjacent to the only path through that part of the garden. Many peace loving and gentle people would think nothing of "nuking" a hornets' nest, but I am a friend of hornets. Over the years I have learned to respect them. They are worth their weight in gold for the number of flies they catch and their stinging response, though it feels like being punched by a spiked fist, is usually always fair and balanced. Like a hive of honeybees their collective intelligence is surprising and where they are regularly exposed to humans they can learn to recognize individuals. I once blundered full on into a nest of hornets in the shrubbery behind the house. It had formed unseen along a path where I frequently passed and as I trimmed along with the hedge clippers I bumped the nest with my shoulder. I was stung once on the cheek and very lightly, a warning, while the rest of the hive flew around me entering and exiting the hive. I allowed the nest to stay where it was and moved the path. No one was stung again by a hornet that year.

The nest on the grape arbor was more of a challenge. It had formed on the base of a vine where the grapes needed

some serious weeding. There was no other option for moving the path. As I stood there contemplating the unavoidable demise of the hornets, a scout flew out and hovered for a moment at eye level before returning to the nest. I remembered at that moment that hornets had been responsible for my third great life lesson in natural consequence (a hot stove and a sleeping cat being the first and second.) As a child I had discovered that a hornet can follow the exact trajectory of a rock thrown at her nest, tracing the projectile back along its path to administer justice to the thrower.

As I reluctantly turned towards the barn for the wasp and hornet spray, I noticed the hose which carries gravity fed water into the garden and my non-violent solution became apparent. A few minutes later a gentle stream of water was spraying the outside of the nest. Twenty-four hours later the hornets had moved to a new location.

Violence is an unavoidable part of life - even a vegan must acknowledge the violence of the plow as it tears the earth and a tomato is just as alive as a kitten, though I do prefer tomatoes in my pizza sauce. Nevertheless, though violence is a given, a balance must be maintained. A good general out maneuvers his opponent to win the battle before the first shot is fired. A true martial artist never looks for a fight and when he must use force, turns his opponent's violence against him. A good hunter takes only what he needs to eat. An effective peace officer is not just an enforcer but a member of his community and a role model.

It is a fair question to ask whether our culture is out of balance where violence is concerned. Our media is steeped in violence from the nightly shooting report to the movie of the week. We maintain two wars and over 140 military bases around the world. Our prisons are crowded and many of our neighborhoods are unsafe. Our young people steeped in a culture of violence run the risk of being desensitized to it, further escalating the problems we already face. "Hornets nests" are now abundant in the world, more, perhaps than we can afford to "nuke." It would behoove us to consider our options.



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

Living in a Hole

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out. A subjective person came along and said, "I feel for you down there." An objective person came along and said, "It's logical that someone would fall down there." A Pharisee said, "Only bad people fall into pits." A news reporter wanted the exclusive story on his pit. Confucius said, "If you had listened to me, you would not be in that pit." Buddha said, "Your pit is only a state of mind." A realist said, "That's a pit you're in all right." A scientist calculated the pressure (P.S.I.) necessary to get him out of the pit. A geologist told him to appreciate the rock strata in the pit. A taxman asked if he was paying taxes on the pit. The city inspector asked if he had a permit to dig the pit. An evasive person came along and avoided the subject of his pit altogether. A self-pitying person said, "You haven't seen anything until you have seen my pit." An optimist said, "Things could be worse." A pessimist said, "Things will get worse."

If you are "living in a pit" the above is not very encouraging. However, I am grateful that God through Christ has an encouraging word for those who are living in the pits. The Psalmist in Psalm 40:1-5 shares with us his testimony of rescue. He was living in a horrible pit. He, like many people today, sensed his own human helplessness and his impossible situation, but God intervened, and the Psalmist

responded with a fresh sense of praise. The Psalmist describes his deliverance from a horrible hole to a heavenly highway (v.2). Pits were used as dungeons (Jeremiah 38:6), pit falls for wild beasts (Psalm 7:15), or it could refer to a grave (Psalm 29:1). The pit was so carved that the noise of those trapped would echo and reverberate so as to drive you mad. It really was a "pit of noise." What is worse, the bottom of the pit was like the muck of filthy mire. If you are living in a pit you only travel in circles; you make no progress; you cover the same ground. In fact, the more effort you exert trying to escape the more trapped you become. The sticky slime just creates a suction that keeps pulling you down. What you need is a lift. Christ comes by your "pit" today, and if you will allow Him to do so, He will lift you out of the miry clay. The Psalmist said not only did God lift him out of a horrible hole to a heavenly highway but He lifted him from the pit and placed his feet upon the path of life. Furthermore, the Psalmist said that God replaced his sob with a song. Tramping around in a slimy hole has a tendency to evoke a sob from your life, but God didn't intend for us to live in a hole but travel the highway of abundant life. He wants to put a song in your heart today. If you live in a hole and walk around in muck every day you will become a slob. The Devil's destiny is the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:3). And he wants you to be a slob in a pit but refuse to be Satan's slob. Let God lift you out of the hole and become one of the Savior's saints! From sinking sand and with tender hand let him lift you.

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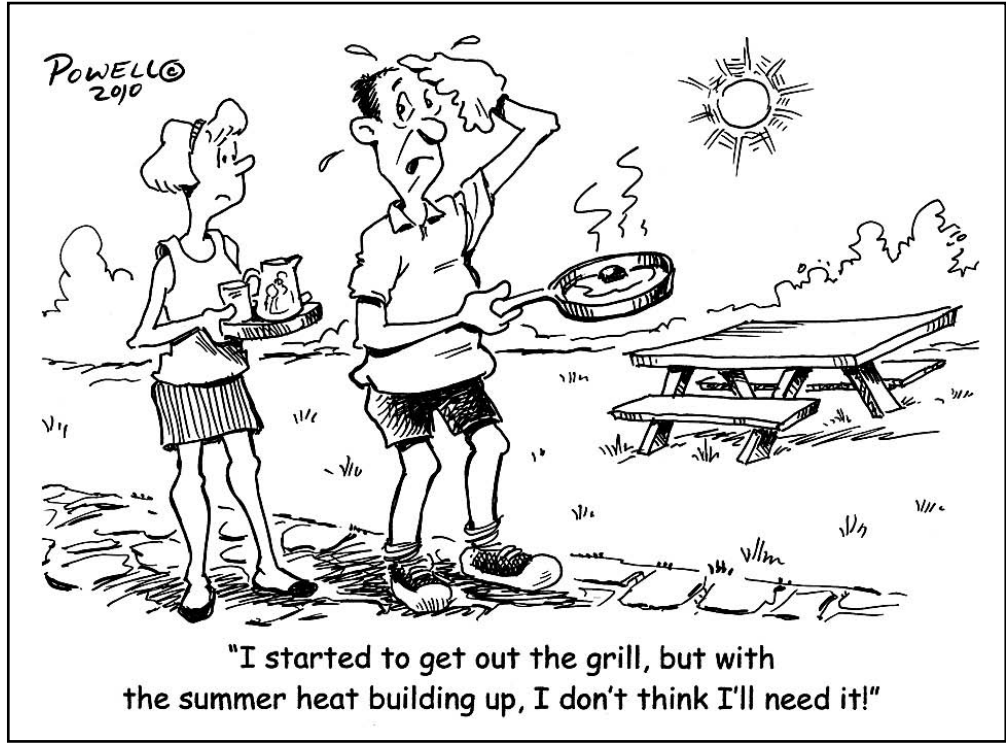
Deadline for the T.C. Herald is Monday by noon

GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:

Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*
Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.



Towns County Herald

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