

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

I've missed the Mountains

It is somewhat of a return to the writing business for me today. For more than a month, I have been in a rehabilitation facility in Gainesville following surgery to remove my left leg below the knee.



Straight Shooting
Charles Duncan
Editor

I'm learning to function without that part of my body. One thing that I have learned: that not having my left leg does not define me. I'm anxious to become one of the millions of Americans that are functioning with a prosthesis.

I'm going through physical therapy at New Horizons Limestone. The occupational and physical therapy staff here is incredible. Becky, Susan, Gail, Leah, Karen, Erin, Melanie, Danita, Mariah, and of course Cara are magnificent when it comes to physical therapy.

The nurses and CNA's also are incredible. Linda, Kelly, Samantha, Maria, Rose, and Blaine just to name a few have been super nice to me. I have a new found appreciation for those in the healthcare profession.

I also want to thank everyone in the Union and Towns communities for their prayers and outreach of support that they have extended to me.

I want to thank House of Prayer for the mountain of prayers that the good folks at that church have sent out on my behalf. Sincerely, my heart was overwhelmed.

I want to thank the Union County Class of 1978 for the very supportive tribute that they sent to me this past week. Folks, I would have given anything to have been at the Class Reunion on Aug. 20. I hope to be there next year, the third Saturday in August, Good Lord willing, and the creeks don't rise. I want to thank Classmate Mike Jones for hosting this annual event.

I also want to welcome Classmate Pat Hacker back home after having served more than 30 years as an integral part of Atlanta Police Department. Pat is a welcomed addition to our community as well as significant other, Christine.

Blairsville and Hiawassee, well, they are so near and yet so far away. My heart aches for my mountain communities, yet I know it's going to be a little while before I can leave this facility and return home.

It is my sincere hope to be in my home watching the Georgia Bulldogs on Sept. 3. I've got my fingers crossed.

I've got my laptop with me, and stories that I can do with a phone interview, well, I'll be writing again. I'll also be writing my columns. It's part of my therapy designed to return me home and back to work.

I hope that return is within reach and soon.

I know y'all have missed me, and Lord knows I've missed you.

It's so good to be writing again.

SepTIMBER Forest Field Day

The Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council is constantly working to develop practical programs for the citizens of the 13 counties of Northeast Georgia.

One upcoming program that will be of interest to many people will be the "SepTIMBER" Forest field day that the Union & Towns County Cooperative Extension offices are teaming up with the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center and Chestatee-Chattahoochee Resource Conservation and Development Council to offer an all things forest-related workshop on Sept. 28, at the GMREC Auditorium.

This field day will target landowners, both farmers and non-farmers, plus non-landowners wishing to improve their knowledge of conservation land management efforts by utilizing programs available through USDA, University of Georgia, Georgia Forestry Commission, and other agencies.

Targeted population includes, but is not limited to, underserved forest landowners in Northeast Georgia who are unfamiliar with the programs and opportunities available through these agencies. One large underserved population that many times need professional help with forest management is landowners who never have been involved in the management of their forest property, but due to circumstances have had to begin to make management decisions that have far reaching effects on their land and timber investment.

These landowners can also lose their lifetime investment by improper management that can lead to investment losses by destructive wind, fire, insects, disease, bad timber sale, or other natural or man-made disasters. It only takes one disaster event to erase the efforts of many years of careful management and growth in the forest.

Improper soil and erosion control methods can also lead to legal costs and fines that can be devastating to a landowner. Forest Landowners need honest, expert, and professional help and need to know where to turn to find the kind of help that is available to help manage and preserve their valuable resources.

The workshop will be divided among five different speakers, all of whom are specialists in their respective fields from the University of Georgia, Georgia Forestry Commission and the U.S. Forest Service. These specialists will be covering nuisance wildlife, tree identification, invasive plants and trees, and diseases and pests of native trees.

The nuisance wildlife aspect of the workshop will focus on how to manage everything from feral pigs to Canada geese, plus moles and voles and everything in between that could be a potential threat to personal property. Identification of invasive plants will be covered in the invasive plants and trees portion of the workshop.

Those who attend will not only learn what these plants are, but also best management practices of each species. "We're going to learn how to identify different fungal diseases, different insects that could be infecting trees and the forest environment, and that is actually going to give us what is called pesticide credit, says Mickey Cummings." Chest/Chatt RC&D secured a grant from the USDA NRCS to hold field days with various topics and this SepTIMBER Forest and Ag field day at the GMREC will be the first in a series to be held here over the next 3 years.

Some other topics will be soil health, alternative farming methods, seasonal high tunnels, organic farming, and other topics of interest to our farmers and landowners. Cost for the event is \$5 which will include a locally cooked lunch.

This is a multi-county program in which participation will be targeted primarily for landowners in the Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council's area in Northeast Georgia as well as the area that the GMREC draws from, but will not be limited to these areas, so anyone is encouraged to attend.

Come out and join with others who want to learn how we manage the only renewable natural resource that we have, our Forests.

A representative from the local Firewise Communities Program will also be making a presentation at the workshop. Firewise is program housed within the National Fire Protection Association that focuses on educating community members on how best to prevent wildfires in their neighborhoods.

The workshop will begin at 10 a.m. and last until 2:30 p.m.

For more information or to register for the event, contact GMREC at 706-745-2655 or Frank Riley Executive Director, Chest/Chatt RC&D Council at: info.ccrd@gmail.com or 706-894-1591.



RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director

Brown Patch in Lawns

This humid weather has been perfect for a rise in fungal diseases in crops and ornamental plants, and lawns are no exception. If you are seeing large dead spots in your fescue or other cool-season grass mix lawn, it is likely brown patch.

This disease is caused by a fungus that favors daytime temperatures of up to ninety degrees and nighttime temperatures in the sixties. Sometimes it can be a problem throughout the fall and early winter if it is not addressed, and it can easily destroy a lawn that is less than one year old.

Patch diseases are caused by the fungus Rhizoctonia solani, and they are problems in both cool and warm season turf grasses. When it presents in warm season grasses, it is called large patch, and in cool season grasses common to our area, such as tall fescue, it is known as brown patch. Though soil and weather conditions may cause infected grass to present a wide variety of symptoms, brown patch usually appears as a ring of browning grass with a patch of unaffected green grass in the center. These spots can be a few inches to a few feet wide and become progressively worse if untreated. The grass blades themselves will have small irregular pale spots with dark brown edges. This is the most common disease affecting tall fescue turf in the Southeast, and most lawns will recover. However, newly established lawns less than a year old can be completely wiped out by the fungus.

The best way to prevent brown patch is to follow good lawn care practices. Cool season grasses should not be fertilized in late spring or throughout summer because the high temperatures cause lawns to enter a state of dormancy where they cannot use the nutrients being put down. Lawns should only be watered as needed, and only to a depth of four to six inches below the surface. Grasses have much shallower roots than other plants, so lawns do not always need the degree of saturation we may give our vegetable and flower beds. When you do mow, remove as many clippings as possible to prevent the disease from spreading to other parts of the lawn, or to your neighbor's property. In September, correct soil compaction by aerating your lawn and re-seed damaged spots. Finally, test your soil every two to three years. Your lawn may look green, but you never truly know if your grass has enough nutrients without testing it. If a lawn does not have enough nutrients, it becomes stressed, allowing diseases, weeds, and moss to creep in.

To protect your lawn, apply fungicides when nighttime temperatures are above sixty degrees, and stop applying them when temperatures drop below that. It is best to alternate fungicides so the fungus does not have a chance to develop resistance. Captan, mancozeb, myclobutanil, PCNB, and thiophanate methyl are all recommended for treatment of brown patch on cool season grasses. However, always pay close attention to the labels as application instructions may differ between cool season and warm season grasses.

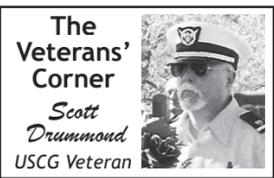
Don't forget about our SepTIMBER Forestry Ag Day on September 28th at GMREC in Blairsville from 9:00am to 1:45. Admission is \$5 and includes lunch and a chance to win door prizes. Topics covered include native tree identification, nuisance wildlife management, invasive species control, tree disease, pest management, and fire prevention. This program will offer three hours of commercial pesticide credit in categories 23, 24, and 27, and one hour of private applicator credit. To RSVP, please contact GMREC at 706-745-2655 by September 14th to ensure your spot.



UGA extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee

A very kind and skilled Marine

Did you ever hear of or go to any of the plays just over the line in NC, at "Licklog Players"? If not, you've missed a wonderful close knit hometown family oriented treat. Headed up by a local actor, Wayne Roshaven who also enlisted in our USMC in 1960 and became a Ground Controlled Approach Contoller.



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

Wayne was born in Michigan and grew up in the small rural town of Fenton. His dad owned and operated a small repair business and his mom taught instrumental music in their home. Therein lays Wayne's affection for music and school plays, having developed his skills for playing several instruments and acting in plays his last two years in HS.

Also having an overwhelming interest in aviation, Wayne wanted to go into one of the aviation cadet programs offered by our military. After one year of college he failed the vision test required and enlisted in the USMC.

After Marine Corps life Wayne married and reared a family, landing a job with the FAA in Miami, as an Air Traffic Contoller, for 25 years. And finally he fulfilled his dream of becoming a pilot, earning a commercial Pilot's license and Flight Instructor Certificate through the GI Bill.

Wayne won national hero recognition by participating in an air rescue of a wife whose pilot husband died at the controls of a small aircraft, just like Wayne's Piper Warrior. He, along with several others was able to talk her through a successful landing at an abandoned training airstrip in the Everglades.

He also rediscovered his love of theater and participated in several stage productions while in Miami. Retiring from the FAA in 1994, Wayne moved to our North Georgia Mountains and discovered the Licklog Players, now as President.

He has appeared in over 50 plays onstage and also at Young Harris College and with Blue Ridge and Highlands Community Theatres.

Wayne was been active with our Civil Air Patrol, with command pilot rating, SAR as a Lt Col. He has served as Chorus Director of the High Country Harmonizers of the Blue Ridge Mountain Harmony Society.

He was Commandant of the Marine Corps League for five years and is now Commander of the Eastern Division of the North Georgia Honor Guard.

If you or anyone you know qualify as an honorably discharged Veteran, your service to our North Georgia Honor Guard would be greatly appreciated, especially by those families of deceased Veterans you would serve. These guys are the greatest!

A kinder, easier going, more friendly man you'll never meet, than Wayne who with four children, twelve grandchildren and one five year old great grandchild, grins with pride.

And like so very many of our Veterans, Wayne says he would most certainly enlist in the USMC if it were all to do over again, and as many of us do in our older years, sometimes wish we'd stayed in for a career of military service.

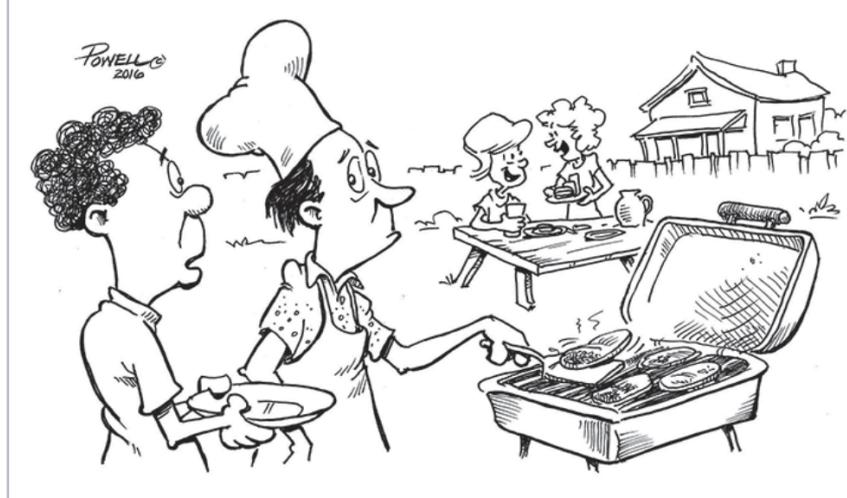
Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor:
Our elected leaders, top to bottom, regardless of political party, gender etc., are worse than Ryan Lochte. He says he "over exaggerated" but didn't lie. They won't and can't say either.

While Lochte's actions and words are deplorable, shouldn't we as citizens and voters, hold our leaders to a higher standard

Claude Spears



"Labor Day is the one day we remember to be grateful for the job we spend the rest of the year complaining about."

Towns County Community Calendar

Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
	Every Tuesday:	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Wednesday	
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Thursday:	
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
	Every Friday:	
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	Every Sunday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
	First Monday of each month:	
Mtn. Amat. Radio	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
	First Tuesday of each month:	
Alzheimer's Supp.	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
American Legion	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Hiaw. City Council	City Hall	5:30 pm
Young Harris Coun.	YH City Hall	7 pm
	First Wednesday of each month:	
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
	First Thursday of each month:	
Stephens Lodge	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
	Second Monday of each month:	
Chamber Board	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
Historical Society	Old Rec. Center	5:30 pm
Mtn. Comp. Users	www.mcug.org	6 pm
Planning Comm.	Courthouse	7 pm
School Board	Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
	Second Tuesday of each month:	
Caregiver support	Brasstown Manor	3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Calvary Alliance Chapel	6 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm

Towns County Herald

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