

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

The Passing of a Hero

On September 22, 2016 just as I was sending in last week's article, a message popped in, reading "It is with great sadness that I report the passing of another friend and great American Hero, Glen Greenwald, Post 7807 Quartermaster passed away during the night." To me and so very many others in our Veterans Community and Towns County this was a powerful blow to our hearts. Glen's passing was sudden and unexpected. Along with his many family members across the USA, we love him and miss him.



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

Just exactly as we knew him and per his eldest son, Bret, his life was dedicated to helping others, thus requiring sacrifice of so much of his personal life. He was always upbeat, very generous, and of good humor. Glen was proud of his athletic skills, having played football for the Army while in Japan. Glen, also an avid downhill skier, often visited western states to ski. His beloved wife, Iona learned to ski, and until Glen's mid 70s, they both would ski vacation together every winter. He also loved trap-shooting, firearms, and all his golfing buddies over at our post 7807 will testify, he loved golf outings!

Born in Jordan, MN, Glen enlisted in our US Army, served for four years, four months. He received his Honorable Discharge on 1 Nov. 1955. His occupation as an NCO for the Army Security Agency (the Army version of our NSA) was an integral part of our Signal/security/intelligence network. He was listed as a "Morse Interceptor" listening in to various transmissions from those who would do harm to America. For his service to our US Army and our nation, Glen received the National Defense ribbon; UN Service medal; Good Conduct medal; Korean Service Ribbon; Army of Occupation, Germany award; and later served for three years (56 thru 59) in our USAF. He was also a tech course instructor.

Glen later worked for Control Data, managing installation/maintenance of mainframe computers and also supported our US Army's communication network in Europe. From 1972-1981 Glen and his family lived in Germany as his career dictated. While there Glen was president of the Toastmasters' Association in Heidelberg, Germany and also later in Texas. According to Bret, Glen was always a prominent person with his natural public speaking skills, and gregarious nature even in those days. Glen leaves behind six children and many grandchildren, innumerable friends and loved ones.

Since the 90s Glen served as our Quartermaster for Post 7807; he and Iona always volunteering for Thanksgiving dinners over at the post. Glen wasn't shy in the least bit. His loud, deep voice demanded attention, however like most Veterans, he was a humble man. From afar Glen would "keep an eye" on newcomers until he knew them; then they would have a friend always. An "outsider" may not have understood his dry sense of humor which reflected his mantra of not taking life too seriously, but his love of others came first and foremost.

We miss you, Glen.

Semper Paratus

Woodsy Owl

Everyone has heard about Smokey Bear the guardian of our forests who protects our forests from wildfire but how many of us have heard about his conservation side kick, Woodsy Owl.



RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director

Woodsy Owl is an owl icon for the United States Forest Service most famous for the motto "Give a hoot — don't pollute!". His current motto is "Lend a hand — care for the land!" Woodsy's target audience are children five to eight years of age, and he was designed to be seen as a mentor to children, providing them with information and advice to help them appreciate nature. Harold Bell of Western Publishing (and producer of Smokey Bear public service announcements), along with Glen Kovar and Chuck Williams, originally created the mascot in 1970 as part of a United States Forest Service campaign to raise awareness of protecting the environment.

Woodsy's slogan was officially introduced on September 15, 1971 by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin. The first Woodsy Owl public service spot was created by US Forest ranger Chuck Williams, who was the Forest Service's technical consultant for the Lassie TV show which featured a Forest Service ranger and his family. Williams, along with Bell and Glenn Kovar, also of the US Forest Service, brainstormed the idea for the Woodsy name together in Los Angeles, California, in 1970. In 1974, the U.S. Congress passed the Woodsy Owl Act (Public Law 93-318) to protect the image of the character.

Despite the documented history of Woodsy Owl's creation, various rival claims to his parentage have emerged over the years. Several individuals have stated that they invented Woodsy Owl as children as part of a nationwide poster contest. The Forest History Society has said that no evidence of such has been provided. Several songs have been used in conjunction with the Woodsy Owl environmental campaign, including "The Ballad of Woodsy Owl" and "Help Woodsy Spread the Word." Jon "Bermuda" Schwartz, the drummer for "Weird Al" Yankovic, recorded "The Woodsy Owl Song." For his appearances in commercials that aired in the 1970s and 1980s, Woodsy was voiced by several different actors, including Sterling Holloway, Barry Gordon, Dave Kimber, and Frank Welker. Several other environmentalism outdoor themed comics have appeared over the years, including Mark Trail and Smokey Bear. Woodsy Owl appeared as a comic by Gold Key Comics from 1973 to 1976.

For more than a quarter of a century, Woodsy Owl has been America's original and official environmental icon. Woodsy has been an anti-pollution symbol and taught us to, "Give a hoot; don't pollute!" Since his creation in 1971, Woodsy has been instrumental in helping teachers and parents inspire children to care actively for the environment. Like his good friend Smokey bear, Woodsy Owl is part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, and a protected symbol. On Earth Day, April 22, 1997, the "new, improved" Woodsy emerged to befriend a new generation of children, motivating them to form healthy, lasting relationships with nature. The USDA Forest Service teamed up with the Children's Television Workshop in revitalizing Woodsy's message and appearance to become more meaningful with today's youth and teaching environments. The State Foresters, the National Forest Foundation, and other partners are working with the Forest Service to help Woodsy fly into children's lives.

Caring, friendly, and wise, Woodsy is a whimsical mentor to youngsters. His new message, "Lend a hand care for the land!" is positive, easily understood, and generates an interest in the stewardship of natural resources. As Woodsy flies across the land, he invites children to see the world around them and explore their surroundings. Woodsy builds on his original message of, "Give a hoot; don't pollute!" by inviting children to renew, reuse, and recycle. Woodsy's looks have changed to be more identifiable with children in the 2000s. He now sports a backpack, hiking shoes, and field pants cool and safe for exploring the "great outdoors."

Woodsy appears sportier, ready to fly across forests and urban areas or lead children on nature hikes. Woodsy provides a new generation with a positive, enlightened introduction to a world in which we all work together to conserve. Woodsy's activities provide the opportunity for young children to appreciate the environment, and stimulate a desire to participate in the stewardship of natural resources. Like Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl sends a message to youth and adults that is intended to remind us all that we must conservation of our natural resources, because when they are gone, they're gone!

For more information on Woodsy Owl or any of the conservation symbols, contact Frank Riley, Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at info.ccrd@gmail.com.

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.

Oaks of North Georgia

Fall is finally here, and we can surely start to anticipate a colorful scene on our mountainsides soon. Though this year's fall color may not be the most brilliant because of our severe drought, deciduous trees such as oaks will still provide a beautiful site as temperatures drop. In addition to viewing the colorful vistas, fall is a great time to look at the leaves dropping on the ground to identify what types of oaks you have in your yard. A strong healthy oak will often not have many low branches, making identification difficult. However, take a look at the leaves in your yard this fall to learn the different varieties of oaks you have.



UGA extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee

There are two main groups of oaks in our area: white and red. The big difference between these groups is that the white oaks (subgenus Leucobalanus) have lobed leaves with smooth edges while red oaks (subgenus Erythrobalanus) have lobes with points on the end. The number, shape, and depth of these lobes help you tell the difference between species in each group.

We have several members of the white oak group in North Georgia, but the most common are white, chestnut and post oaks. All of these trees have a much lighter bark than those trees in the red oak group, and they are more resistant to insect and disease damage. The standard white oak has leaves with 7-11 lobes with moderate spaces in between them. This oak is the most common oak in North Georgia. The chestnut oak is also common and has excellent drought tolerance. It has broad leaves with small lobes which give the leaf edges a scalloped appearance. The post oak is easily found in deciduous forest stands as well. Mature post oak leaves have large, squared lobes, but some younger leaves may look similar to the standard white oak. It is common in a natural setting, but it is not typically used in landscaping unlike white and chestnut oaks.

Though all red oak leaves have lobes with pointed ends, they have a variety of shapes and sizes. The scarlet oak is named for its brilliant red hue in the fall. Like the chestnut oak, it has excellent drought tolerance once it is mature, though it is difficult to transplant from the ridge tops and drylands it is found in. Scarlet oak leaves have several lobes with large, deep spaces between them, and each lobe has several points. Northern red oaks have broad leaves with numerous pointed lobes that have shallow spaces between them. The leaves are a deep, shiny green on the upper surface and have a yellow-green underside. The southern red oak is much different from the northern because its leaves are narrow and only have a few lobes with one or two points each. This tree is also referred to as a Spanish oak because it is closely associated with early Spanish settlements in the South. Black oaks and blackjack oaks are also members of the red oak group and common to our area.

Many of us will have to deal with dying oaks at some point on our property. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to determine what may be killing oak trees because it could have been a drought that happened years before, or a fungal disease that kills instantly. One of the most common reasons for oak death however is root compaction caused by vehicles parking over the roots or construction equipment weighing down the soil while building a house.

For more information on local oak trees and diseases, contact the extension office.



Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

I would like to thank Vernon Dixon for informing us that solar and wind energy are "...now being competitive with fossil fuels." That's great news! Since that's the case Dr. Dixon is free to invest in any wind or solar energy business he chooses...with his own money, of course. Perhaps Dr. Dixon would like to start a wind or solar business...with his own money.

When a product is competitive in the market, it doesn't need taxpayer subsidies or government programs to prop it up.

I'm sure the good doctor will keep us well informed about the progress he's making in his new alternative energy venture.

Jim Soltys

Letter to the Editor:

Red is my color
This past Saturday I experienced a first time phenomenon. A hummingbird flew into our garage and apparently could not find its way out. I tried to coax it out but my efforts were of no avail. The hummingbird flew around and around the garage to find an exit even though the garage door was wide open. I noticed after a while, that it came to rest from its efforts on the garage door opener trolley just above the release cord.

After some research on the internet, I found that the red handle and red cord of the door release is what had attracted the hummingbird. It thought the red handle was a flower which should provide him with nectar. However, the hummingbird could not see any clear route from the garage because it could not see the sky.

Going forward with this new knowledge, I removed the cord, the handle, several red gas cans and coolers from the garage. Next, I hung the red hummingbird feeder on the outside edge of the garage door which provided a single source of red attraction.

Once the little guy saw his familiar hummingbird feeder, he went straight to it, drank his fill, and flew away to freedom and his next meal. I pray this story might save the next trapped hummingbird.

Praise the Lord!

Bob Angelo

Have something to sell?
Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454

Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday Red Cross Building	7 pm
Free GED prep.	Every Thursday: Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Bridge Players	Every Friday: Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Mtn. Amat. Radio	First Monday of each month: 1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	6:30 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	First Tuesday of each month: 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
Quilting Bee	First Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	First Thursday of each month: Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Chamber Board	Second Monday of each month: 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
Caregiver support	Second Tuesday of each month: 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

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Towns County Herald

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