

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

100 years ago

April 6 in 1917 is officially recognized as America's entry into World War One. Of course the pathway to that horrendous war is more complex and longer in the making than our official date, set forth afterwards.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



America, under Woodrow Wilson, tried to maintain neutrality in the beginning, triggered by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, along with his wife, on June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo, Bosnia, by a radical Serbian nationalist, Gavrilo Principe. Quoting Woodrow Wilson, "The United States must be neutral in fact as well as in name during these days that are to try men's souls. We must be impartial in thought as well as in action, must put a curb upon our sentiments as well as upon every transaction that might be construed as a preference of one party to the struggle before the other." However, in the course of world events, circumstances beyond American borders made it imperative that we get involved in one of the bloodiest conflicts known. Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the then Ottoman Empire, called the Central Powers, fought against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan, and eventually the USA. These were the Allied Powers.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 along with the Red Army being weakened by the Germans led to Russia signing an armistice with the Central Powers and halted Russia's involvement within the "War to End All Wars". They were fully involved within as a civil war, led by Vladimir Lenin and his Bolsheviks, being well underway to the future creation of the Soviet Empire. As a note, their "do-gooder" Revolution to end economic instability, scarcity of food and other essentials certainly failed in that respect.

Our neutrality began coming to an end in 1915 when German U-boats began sinking passenger and commercial boats in the waters surrounding the British Isles. May 1915 brought American emotion for going to war to a peak when the British Liner Lusitania was sunk, killing 2000 passengers, including hundreds of Americans.

February 1917 saw our Congress pass a \$250 million arms appropriations bill designed to prepare our military for war. The official Declaration of War was commenced by Wilson on 2 April, 1917. Our Senate voted 82-6 to declare war on Germany on 4 April and on 6 April the House of Representatives passed the resolution by a vote of 373-50.

This horrible war lasted until 1918 resulting in the deaths of more than 16 million people; soldiers, sailors and civilians alike. Twenty-one million more were wounded. The Treaty of Versailles, signed at the Paris Peace Conference on June 28, 1919 did nothing but pave the pathway for Germany to ignite the flames of WWII, later on.

Since then and even today, Europe seems to always be a hotbed of political unrest, distrust, and confusion, with so many nationalities involved and in conflict with each other. America's future was formed in WWI, and our stance on neutrality has forever been changed.

Semper Paratus

Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

Often when we've had visitors we have taken them to Brasstown Bald for the spectacular view of the area where we live. On some occasions, with some friends, we would take the harrowing drive to the more spectacular view from Bell Mountain.

Now, there is no question that we will always go to Bell Mountain for the viewing platforms.

I recently read a letter to the Editor written by Jerry Carnes and agree with all of his concerns and possible improvements.

To park at Brasstown Bald costs \$3 and then you can walk .6 miles or pay \$2 for the shuttle! I believe that many of Mr. Carnes' recommendations would be more likely if Towns County would also charge for parking at Bell Mountain.

Although pay stations as those used by the State Parks with money slots and envelopes for the money and a tear-off that could be simplified by simply placing pay stations at each of the parking areas with signs indicating that \$X.XX (I feel \$2 would be acceptable to most people) is to be dropped in the container, and that the money will be used for the ongoing care and maintenance of the area and road. Will everyone pay if there is no proof that they didn't? I would believe most would!

Dave Hering

Letter to the Editor:

For Mr. Carnes & Mr. Holmes:

Please give some thought to your use of the words "resident" and "non-resident". I am a non-resident. I am also a fellow Towns County tax-paying property owner (without a homestead exemption) of some 13 years. So, in effect I am also paying for facilities. Should I be discriminated against because I do not live there full time?

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert S. Dawson, a fellow taxpayer

To the Editor:

Earth Day-2017 - What does it mean to us:

Earth Day, 2017. Will it be the beginning of a better way to treat our earth? Can this be the year when we, as a people, unite and say no to the exploitation of our earth and no to putting profits ahead of caring for our earth? Where do we, as a nation, place our values? Despite present political tensions, I, for one, believe that we will look within ourselves and make the right choices. I believe that all Americans do truly value proper Creation Care. We do not have to sacrifice our economy to do so, for countless studies show that we can both care for our environment and grow our economy at the same time. Every dollar spent in caring for our environment yields 3-4 dollars in long term savings. Let Earth Day be a day of new beginnings. For the sake of our children, and for the sake of children for countless generations to come, we can, and we must, make the proper moral choice to care for our precious earth. There is no Planet B.

Vernon Dixon

AgriScience & Outdoor Recreation Expo

Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D Council works with many groups, agencies, and organizations both public and private to promote conservation and preservation of our natural resources and highlight new and more efficient farming methods. Our many grants, events, and conferences all have a natural resource conservation or improvement theme, such as: wildfire education (Firewise, Fire Adapted Communities, Ready-Set-Go) or Cover crops and No-Till farming methods. One of our events that we are participating in is the 2nd Annual Georgia AgriScience & Outdoor Recreation Expo to be held at the Jim Miller Park (2245 Callaway Road Marietta, GA 30008) on April 21-22, 2017. With the increasing number in human population vs. current food production and year 2020 projected food supply shortage, this expo is being organized to inform all about the need to aid in conserving our natural resources and waterways, increase current food production and supply, educate Georgia citizens of the value of being true "stewards" (managers that improve current condition) of our soil and land, and remind its citizens that the great outdoors and its inhabitants (aquatic, animal, and plant species) can provide a lifetime of recreation, memories, and enjoyment as long as it is properly maintained and managed. In addition, the expo's goal is to educate more citizens on the integral role that urban farming in combination with traditional row crop farming will play in producing additional produce or food supply to help meet the upcoming demand caused by this nation's projected food supply shortage. Although the Upper Ocmulgee River Resource Conservation and Development Council is the host for the event, collaborations have been formed with various university personnel, governmental agents, industry experts, politicians, and various other non-profit organizations. This two day event will include field demonstrations and various exhibitors' stations to allow its participants to gain the knowledge and tools needed to help create and promote agricultural practices (urban farming included) that "conserve" our soil, water, and land, which in return will result in greater productivity of our natural resources and a sustainable future of all their recreational benefits which proper management and stewardship will provide. Now is the time to invest in the next generation of people who will feed our nation and "steward" the land in the years to come. The Upper Ocmulgee River RC&D, in collaboration with our other partners for this event, is dedicated to creating stewards and equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to provide the true meaning of conservation "preserving our land for future generations" and being in the forefront in educating today's generation to provide needed resources, increased crop production with urban farming, aquatic species, habitat for wildlife, recreational activity, and reduced erosion all of which are vital for our survival for tomorrow. The Upper Ocmulgee River RC&D would like for anyone interested to aid in their mission and become a sponsor, presenter, or exhibitor at the upcoming "2nd Annual Georgia AgriScience & Outdoor Recreation Expo". For more information visit the website at www.gaurbanexpo.com to register and for more information. In addition, Walter Reaves (Friday 12 noon) and Ranger Nick (Saturday 12 noon) will be guest speakers during expo. Four Level 1A Re-Certification Classes will also be available on Friday (April 21st) from 8 a.m.-12 noon.

TOP 6 THINGS TO DO AT THE EXPO: 1. Explore the latest in agricultural equipment technology; 2. Learn to garden and how to prepare fresh foods 3. Raised Bed Gardening 4. See Higher Education Exhibits 5. Take home locally grown plants and foods. 6. Master Gardeners on-site to answer your questions.

The expo is in Partnership with: Cobb County Soil & Water Conservation District; DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation District; Fulton County Soil & Water Conservation District; Gwinnett County Soil & Water Conservation District; Georgia Association of Conservation Districts; Cobb County Board of Commissioners; Cobb County Master Gardeners Volunteers; Farm Bureau of Cobb County; Farm Bureau Farmers Market; Georgia Department of Agriculture; Georgia Game & Wildlife Division; Georgia Forestry Commission; Georgia Grown; Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission; USDA-FSA; USDA-NRCS and many other supporters.

To get more information visit their web site or contact Frank M. Riley, Jr, Executive Director - Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council at Phone 706- 894-1591 email info. ccrcd@gmail.com or visit the web site www.chestchattred.org.

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.**

RC&D
Frank Riley
 Executive Director



Tent caterpillars and other pests

Many of you may have noticed large webs forming on tree branches in your yard and along roads. These are not the work of some enormous mystery spider, but a type of insect called tent caterpillars. These critters are the larvae of a type of moth and hatch in early spring. Tent caterpillars produce silk from their salivary glands in their mouths, and they use this silk to create the protective "tents" we see in the trees right now. While these insects do not kill the trees in which they live, many people find the nests unsightly, and the caterpillars can strip branches of their leaves.

There are two main varieties of tent caterpillars that we will find in our area: the forest tent caterpillar and the eastern tent caterpillar. The nests of these two larvae are very difficult to tell apart as they both tend to inhabit the crotches of trees, but their markings make it easy to distinguish them from each other. The eastern tent caterpillar has a broad white stripe bordered by two thin yellow stripes extending down the length of its back. The forest tent caterpillar looks similar but instead of a stripe, it has white and black spots along its back. Both caterpillars are mostly blue-gray and covered with thin hairs. There is only one generation of these pests every year, so you will only see their nests form in the early spring.

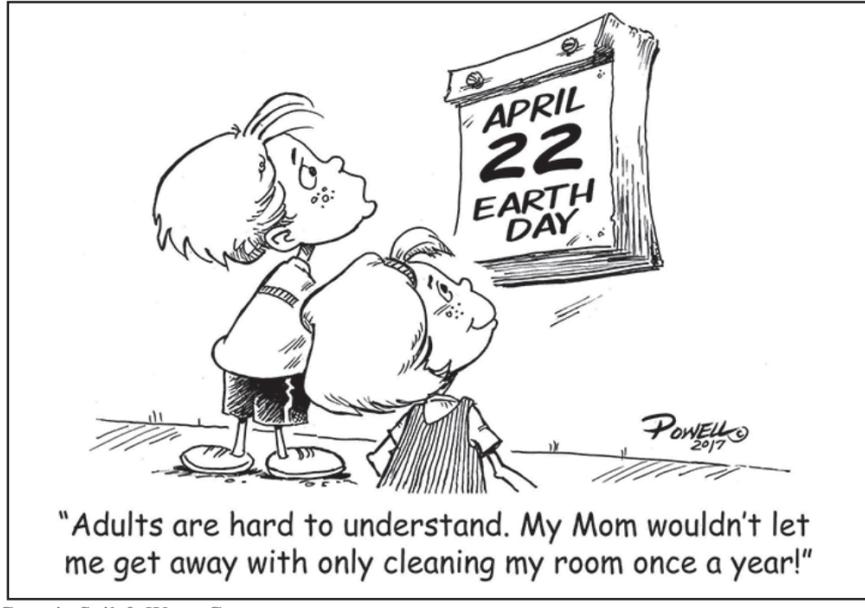
Another common tent-forming pest is the fall webworm which is typically a problem later in the summer. Webworms create their silken nests at the ends of branches instead of at branch unions, often killing all of the leaves and new growth within the nest. The larvae have long, thin hairs and have two rows of black spots extending down their backs. Unlike tent caterpillars, webworms have multiple generations throughout the year and can do much more damage.

If you have a tree that has become home to some of these pests, the first course of action is to remove the affected branches. Manual removal should always be your first course of action, but if the nest is out of reach or on a major branch that cannot be removed, pesticides may be required. If possible, damage the nest and crush what caterpillars you can before spraying to make the nest as vulnerable as possible to the insecticide. The silk of these tents is so tightly woven that it can be difficult for sprays to penetrate, so opening the webs will help ensure the pesticide comes into contact with the caterpillars. Carbaryl and acephate are two solutions that have been proven effective not only against both varieties of tent caterpillars, but also fall webworm and other pests such as bagworm moths.

Though tent caterpillars and webworms seldom cause enough damage to completely kill a tree, they do feed on the leaves and cause a significant loss of foliage. This can greatly stress a tree and when coupled with adverse conditions, such as drought, can contribute to a tree's decline. By diligently removing and treating nests before these caterpillars mature and repopulate, you can save your trees from unneeded stress and unsightly damage.

If you'd like to learn more about these pests and how to control them, contact our office for a comprehensive publication.

We will be offering a Master Naturalist class this fall. This is a nine week course that meets once a week and covers wildlife management, tree and insect ID, invasive species, Georgia natural history, and many other topics! If you are interested in signing up, please contact your extension office.



Towns County Community Calendar

Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
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Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
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YH Plan Comm.	YH City Hall	5 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Humane Shelter	Bd. Blairsville store	5:30 pm
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
Goldwing Riders	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Red Cross DAT	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Republican Party	New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
Square Dance Club	Rec. Center	7 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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Towns County Herald

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