

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Yes we love our WWII Vets

Sometimes we just get the chance to meet some wonderful people. Amongst those is Martha Warth, born in Hayesville, NC on September 1, 1924. She recently was awarded the Honor Flight to Washington, DC with others who served in WWII.

At age 8 her father, a WWI Sergeant had his hardware store business wiped out by the great Depression, destroying the family's fortune. Hence they were forced to move to Lakeland, FL into her mom's uncle's home. They all adapted and her father did all manner of jobs there in order to make ends meet. He soon became city Office Manager. Martha graduated Lakeland HS early in January 1942, working dime store jobs but really wanted to follow the old family tradition of enlisting. Her dad's family had 10 children all serving in WWII; hence he was proud of her for joining the US Navy in 1944. She was assigned as seaman 1st class to the communication and intelligence Washington, DC; C and I annex for decoding. Acquiring a secret clearance she was in charge of incoming communications from 1944-1946. Yet she is extremely modest concerning her service to America. After leaving Navy life, taking advantage of the GI Bill, Martha's efforts were rewarded with a BS degree at FL Southern and later FL State U at Tallahassee where she met her husband, Stan and were married in October of 1948. This year they will celebrate 69 years of marriage! She was astute enough to take her \$200 discharge pay to purchase a lot on Lake Chatuge.

Both their children also served in our armed forces. Their son, called home too early with heart failure, served in the US Army, Vietnam, now rests with our Supreme Commander. Their daughter is now a retired LT Commander, US Navy Intelligence and is presently First Vice Commander of American Legion Post #532, Hayesville, NC.

Martha stated that she would absolutely re-enlist if it were to do over, but would be much more ambitious. She also believes in universal military service for all Americans. She is very adamant that our Veterans and active duty military men and women need more financial support on an as needed basis. And shared with most our Veterans is the fact that our men and women who have served should receive the very best medical care available.

Adding to our conversation she gave me a few tidbits, in that we are all "too soon old, too late smart". She appreciated her time in our Navy, enjoyed all the good times and had never been north of NC or west of Tennessee until serving our nation as a US Navy Wave. Another bit of history from her first person perspective, is that the black women serving as US Navy Waves were the sharpest dressers, always in immaculate uniforms and that racial problems, often politically aggravated today, were virtually non-existent at that time. We were America at our best! - *Semper Paratus*

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



The Chattahoochee-Oconee Foothills Landscape

Most of us take for granted the spectacular mountain views that we drive by every day and don't stop to realize why there are vast stretches of tree covered mountains with no houses or buildings disturbing the views. This beautiful mountain land, that most moved here to enjoy, is protected by the US Government under the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS).

USFS is by far the largest landowner in many counties in north Georgia owning over 50% of the land in many of them. The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest provides outdoor recreation opportunities and natural resources in the two forests, the Chattahoochee in north Georgia and the Oconee in north central Georgia. The Forests feature over 867,000 acres across 26 counties, thousands of miles of clear-running streams and rivers, approximately 850 miles of recreation trails, and dozens of campgrounds, picnic areas, and other recreation activity opportunities, these landscapes are rich in natural scenery, history, and culture.

The landscapes are more than trees and streams. They provide a sense of place for people - reflecting the histories and defining the future. The forest is all around us for all to enjoy and provide most any type of recreation activity that we can imagine. The lands that the USFS manages is owned by the citizens, so your input as how the forests are managed, are used, and will be used is important to USFS management.

We can't all get our way but the collective voice from our input can help shape the direction and future of the forests. In 2016 the Chattahoochee Oconee NF began a series of community conversations in various cities around the forests along with an online forum to reach out to partners, stakeholders and community members to realize a shared vision to address complex conservation challenges across the area called the Foothills Landscape.

The 143,419 acres that make up the Foothills Landscape stretch across the Chattahoochee National Forest and marks the area where the mountains are visibly reduced to foothills. It includes portions of Dawson, Fannin, Gilmer, Habersham, Lumpkin, Murray, Rabun, and White counties. You can learn much, much more at <http://tinyurl.com/FoothillsLandscapeCollaborate>. This website covers all information on the Foothills Landscape project, past meetings and future ones and plans from the input from these public meetings plus how you can get involved with the future of the National Forest.

The purpose of this project is to create, restore and maintain ecosystems that are more resilient to natural disturbances, such as wind, water, and fire. Specifically, the Forest Service is seeking to enhance and provide quality habitat for rare and declining species, as well as desired game and non-game species; to reduce hazardous fuel loading across the landscape to diminish damaging wildfires (prescribed burning); to improve soil and water quality; to provide sustainable recreation and access opportunities; and to awaken and strengthen a connection to these lands for all people. They need your knowledge and insights right from the start to plan the right work in the right places for the right reasons.

You can share what you learn about the Foothills Landscape with others through this collaboration. You can comment on what you care about and tell your community why, and use the map to show them where it all is located. You can describe what you want and need from this landscape and what you can and do give. You can learn from the knowledge that others share here, and consider the many diverse perspectives revealed to all through this collaboration. You can add your thoughts, ideas and knowledge to the map or see what your neighbors have said by clicking the comments log to the right or the map.

The map includes basic information about the Foothills Landscape on the Chattahoochee National Forest, including recreation areas, roads, trails, and management prescriptions. You can learn more about each by clicking directly on the icon or path, and you can also turn these map details on and off as needed by checking the boxes in the map legend.

The area within the purple boundary on the map is the Foothills Landscape. The darkest green areas within that are National Forest lands. At the website you can also find out how to attend a collaborative workshop near you and subscribe to email updates. We all need to get involved with our National Forests and the Foothills Landscape project is the best way to do that and give our input to management of our most important neighbor, the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest.

For more information contact Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D: www.info.ccred@gmail.com.

RC&D
Frank Riley
Executive Director



Japanese Beetles

Once again, the hot summer months have brought those pesky brown and green Japanese beetles that devastate our foliage. These beetles first appeared in the United States in 1916. Like most introduced species, it is not a pest in its native country of Japan, where natural predators keep beetle populations at bay. However, since its first appearance here, populations have continued to skyrocket and devour flowers and leaves. Japanese beetles are about half an inch in length and have coppery backs. Their heads and shoulders are a deep green color, and they have tufts of white hair covering their bodies. Adults emerge from the soil and begin aggressively feeding in June. They typically live for thirty to forty-five days, but populations can continue to cause damage for up to six weeks as young adults continue to emerge. These beetles feed on over 300 species of plants and will eat almost every part of a plant except the stem. Though a single beetle does not eat very much at all, when they swarm, they can easily defoliate entire ornamental plants and vegetables as they feed on the plant tissue between the veins. As the beetles continue to feast, the vegetation they damage release odors that draw even more beetles leading to an infestation. Japanese beetles are strong flyers and can often travel for miles. Because of this, it is difficult to tell the source of the infestation. Once they have found a suitable area to establish, the females will mate and burrow about two to three inches into the soil to lay their eggs. A single female can lay up to sixty eggs in her lifetime. The larvae (grubs) hatch soon after and grow rapidly throughout the summer months, feeding on turfgrass roots.

Beetles overwinter deep in the soil in the grub phase. They can dig as deep as six inches during the coldest months, and once the soil reaches fifty degrees, they become inactive. In the spring, once soil temperatures climb again, the grubs move back into the root zone. After feeding for another four to six weeks, the grubs go through a transition stage (pupa) and become adults which emerge in June to begin the cycle again.

The Japanese beetle is particularly devastating to landscapes because both the grubs and the adults feed excessively on plants. However, there are a few control methods that can be taken to decrease beetle populations around your home. If adult beetles are infesting only a small area of your property, physical removal may be most economical and effective. In cases where a large percentage of property is affected, chemical control with insecticides may be required. Planting ornamentals that are unappealing to Japanese beetles can also help prevent large populations from establishing. However, never place beetle traps because they can actually end up attracting even more beetles to your property! If you are interested in the various treatment options for Japanese beetle infestations, or would like a list of beetle-resistant ornamental varieties, contact the extension office for a publication.

Union and Towns County Extension will be holding a Master Naturalist Class Wednesdays starting July 26th and ending September 20th at the Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center. This is an eight week course that meets once a week and covers wildlife management, tree and insect ID, invasive species, Georgia natural history, and many other topics. Registration fee is \$250 for the entire eight week course. Please register by July 19th!

UGA extension
From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee



Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

The Right Thing to Do

When the Towns County Board of Elections made a final decision on June 14, 2017 to abandon its precinct consolidation plan, they finally did the right thing. For several months many of us had debated each point of their consolidation rationale and eventually concluded that every one of them was invalid. For me, the clincher was Bill Kendall's article explaining that he had budgeted funds to bring in outside professionals from Kennesaw State University to set up voting machines and tabulate results thereby validating the integrity of each election. In my mind that negated the Board's argument that elections have become so technically complicated that multiple precincts are just too hard to manage.

So I want to thank each one of you who opposed this poorly conceived plan and worked so tirelessly to defeat it. Special thanks are in order for board members Barbara Shook and Loretta Youngblood who opposed consolidation almost from the beginning and to Rob Murray who showed great courage in reversing his previous "yes" vote at the "11th hour". Also, Commissioner Bradshaw and Former Commissioner Kendall for their vision and steadfast leadership.

For much too long, we have allowed greedy "Carpetbaggers" to move in and use borrowed money to tear down our mountains and destroy the natural beauty of this county that has been home to many of us for five or six generations. We don't need to allow anyone to likewise destroy our institutions and heritage, hastening the conversion of Towns County into "Little Atlanta" or "Little Orlando".

Wm. Ronald Gibson

"I think Gramps makes up stuff. He claims when he was a kid, summer vacations lasted three whole months!"

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday: All Saints Lutheran	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
Bridge Players	Every Thursday: All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Friday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday: Red Cross Building	7 pm
Caregiver support	Second Tuesday of each month: Brasstown Manor	3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Mtn. Regional Library	4 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Basket Weavers	Second Wednesday of each month: SC Fire Hall	10 am
Board of Elections	67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A	4 pm
CVB Board	Second Thursday of each month: Rec Center	9 am
Awake America Prayer	Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	6 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Third Monday of each month: Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 pm
YH Plan Comm.	Third Tuesday of each month: YH City Hall	5 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Blairsville store	5:30 pm
Quilting Bee	Third Wednesday of each month: McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Jack @ 828-2896	

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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