

# DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Take a Walk with me

I am walking around my neighborhood this morning and breathing air so pure it startles me to take a breath; the cool crisp air is starched with fall. Turning now along the one lane road along the Hiawassee River's edge the sound of the rushing water is in symphony with nature and the dancing sunlight on the water's flow is nothing short of a spectacle. I am so thankful for this beauty and so blessed to be in the United States of America that I want to drop to both knees, not one knee but two, and give thanks to God and all the men and women who have served courageously to make this joy possible.

I am coming around the turn and look down and see the home of Jerry, US Army - just passing Barry's house, US Coast Guard, spotted my friend Renata, US Army leaving her driveway. Looked over to see that Slade and Donna, both US Army, are back in Texas. I am struggling up the mountain now and remembering that Bill and Bradley, both US Army Veterans are watching the top. I am back toward my house now and see that Al, US Army, is leaving for work. As I enter the door I catch my own US Coast Guardsman taking a break and catching up on Gunsmoke. I don't know all the Veterans on this mountain with no name, but those that I do know and those that I don't - I Thank You.

*Semper Paratus*

**The Veterans' Corner**  
Scott Drummond  
USCG Veteran



## Arthur Woody - Forest Ranger

The Story of Ranger Arthur Woody continued: The same year he became an official forest ranger, Ranger Woody's first step toward implementing his dream was to stock non-native rainbow and brown trout in the refuge in 1918. During the next 15 years, he also established trout-rearing ponds on Rock Creek Lake inside the refuge. These fish-rearing ponds were eventually taken over and expanded by the Forest Service. In 1937, thanks to Ranger Woody's initial efforts, Blue Ridge WMA became home to the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery, now run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Ten years after he released the first trout into Rock Creek, Ranger Woody released five deer into the refuge in 1928 (at his own expense), marking the beginning of the return of whitetails to the north Georgia mountains. During the early 1930s, Charlie Elliott had worked closely with Ranger Woody on many important wildlife and conservation projects in north Georgia, including the planning and building of the Appalachian Trail. Charlie had worked in various capacities for the Georgia Forestry Department, as well as the U.S. Forest Service, and the two men had become very close friends. By the early 1930s, Ranger Woody had been lobbying the Forest Service for many years to make his beloved Rock Creek Refuge into an official wildlife reserve in addition to be a forest preserve. On the state level, Charlie began working behind the scenes with state officials. The fruits of their joint efforts were finally realized in March 1936 when the Georgia Wildlife Division, under the leadership of Zack Cravey, who was then Commissioner of Natural Resources, entered into a historic cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. The partnership between the federal government and the state of Georgia provided that the state would manage all fish and wildlife resources on Rock Creek Refuge, while the Forest Service continued to manage all forest resources.

With the official name of "Blue Ridge Wildlife Management Area," Ranger Woody's refuge became the first wildlife management area in Georgia and the first of its kind in the nation. It was also the first federal property to be managed by a state agency. By 1936, Blue Ridge WMA had been expanded to almost 39,000 acres. Throughout the 1920s and early '30s, Ranger Woody had reintroduced a number of black bear cubs into the refuge and worked tirelessly to grow and protect the native wild turkey population. Later, when turkeys were re-stocked in other parts of the mountain region, it was not necessary to stock them in Blue Ridge WMA because the native population was large enough to stand on its own. As a result, the turkeys found at Blue Ridge WMA today are known for having one of the purest native bloodlines of any wild turkeys found in the mountain region, although their once-pure genetics have no doubt been somewhat diluted by other birds coming into the area in recent decades. Turkey experts believe that these native birds have slightly darker feathers and other distinguishing characteristics. Following the success of Ranger Woody's Blue Ridge WMA in 1936, four more wildlife management areas were established in the north Georgia mountains within the Chattahoochee National Forest: the 23,000-acre Chattahoochee WMA, the 19,000-acre Chestatee WMA, the 40,000-acre Cohutta WMA and the 13,000-acre Lake Burton WMA, all managed by the Georgia Wildlife Division. More WMAs were established in later years. Deer from the Pisgah Reserve in North Carolina were stocked in each one of these areas during the 1930s. Because the Georgia partnership worked so well, numerous other states soon followed suit with similar programs. Today, the vast network of wildlife management areas found across the U.S. can trace its roots back to the vision and determination of one man, Arthur Woody.

His idea of having a refuge inside the forest preserve eventually evolved into the modern wildlife management area system in Georgia as we know it today. This may well have been his single greatest contribution to the conservation movement.

By 1940, in the span of just 13 short years, the 60 to 80 deer stocked during the late 1920s that had been the foundation for the Ranger's fledgling deer herd at Rock Creek Refuge had increased their numbers substantially. The herd in and around the refuge had now grown to an estimated 2,000 animals. Ranger Woody's health failed rapidly in the mid-1940s due to heart and kidney disease. He was forced to retire prematurely, and he died in 1946 at the relatively young age of 62. However, his achievements during his 33-year career with the Forest Service were extraordinary. He had introduced rainbow and brown trout to the mountain region, protected native brook trout, reintroduced deer, turkey, and bear and pioneered many innovative forestry practices that are still in use today. But one of his crowning achievements in the realm of conservation has to be his vision for a game refuge inside the national forest that eventually became Georgia's first WMA.

For more information on Georgia's WMA's contact Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest or Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D at info.ccrd@gmail.com.

**Have something to sell?**  
Let the Herald work for you!



Deadline for the Towns County Herald  
is Friday by 5 PM • 706-896-4454

## Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs

The cooler weather is going to send insects scrambling for warm, safe places to spend the winter. Unfortunately for us, our houses are exactly what these bugs are looking for. One of the peskiest invaders is the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB). This bug was introduced from Asia most likely in shipping crates. The first recorded sighting was in Allentown, PA in 1998, but it probably arrived even before that. It has subsequently spread throughout much of the east coast, feeding on crops and becoming a nuisance in winter.

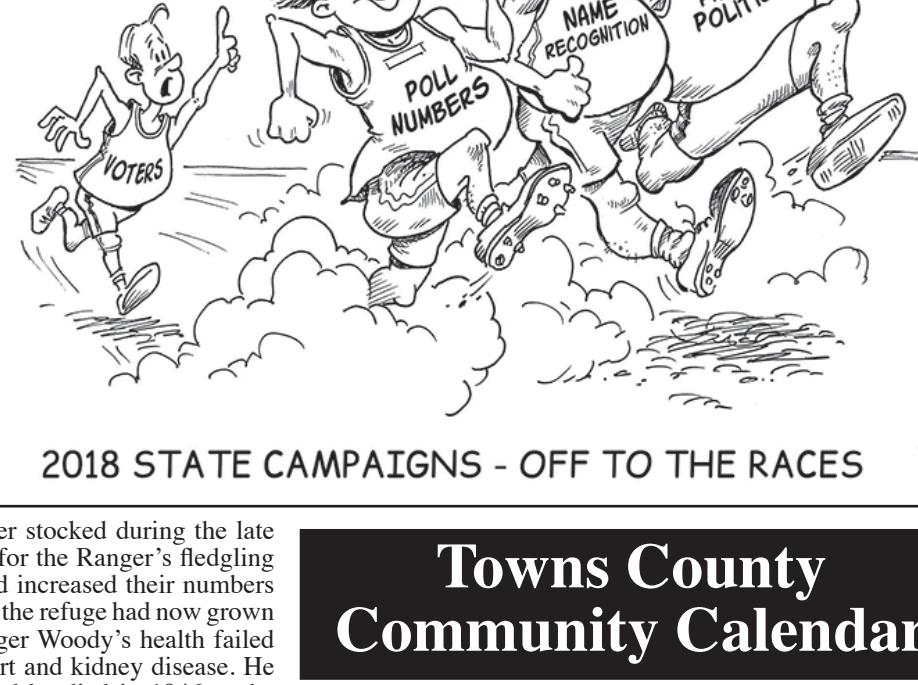
The adult BMSB is about 17 mm long and has a mottled brown pattern. It has light colored bands on its antenna and alternating light and dark brown bands on the edge of its body. Like many other stink bugs, it is shaped like a shield and as its name suggests, it has glands that produce an unpleasant odor when it is agitated. There are usually only one or two generations in Georgia, depending on how warm the weather is and the location. Adults emerge in May, mate and deposit eggs throughout the summer. The nymphs emerge from the eggs and go through five growth stages before finally developing wings and becoming adults. By this time, temperatures start to cool off, and the bugs search for places to overwinter until October.

In its native range in Asia, the BMSB feeds on a wide variety of fruit including apples, pears, peaches, figs, citrus, and many others. It can also be a pest of ornamental plants and important crops such as soybeans. In the Northeastern United States, this bug has caused massive damage to apple and berry orchards. In the Southeast, it can be a major pest of cotton and blueberries, two very important crops to Georgia.

Though you may find several of these insects in your house over the winter, they do not infest houses like cockroaches. You will typically find them squeezing through door jams and window frames as they follow the light they see coming from your house, and then sense the warm temperatures. The best way to make sure these smelly pests don't completely take over in the winter is to take action before they look for warm spaces. This means making sure all outdoor vents are covered with a fine mesh, adding weather stripping to door and window frames, and sealing up any other points of entry. Though you may still see some bugs in late fall and winter, having your house sealed up well will decrease the number of BMSB that make it in.

You may be tempted to spray insecticide if you see BSB in your home, but once they make it inside, your best bet would be to try to locate where they came in. If you have a lot of bugs in walls or attic spaces, spraying insecticides will indeed kill many of them, but it won't prevent more from moving in. Also, having a large amount of dead stink bugs in your home will promote carpet beetle infestations, as they feed on dead insects. Carpet beetles also feed on wool clothing and other animal products, so it is best to try to prevent stink bugs from entering in the first place.

Though these pesky critters can be annoying and give off a bad smell, they are not harmful. They may startle you as they fly around your house, but they won't bite, sting, or infest your home, so don't worry too much. Just seal up your house to try to avoid the problem next year!



## Towns County Community Calendar

Every Monday:	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Every Tuesday:	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Free GED prep.		
Every Wednesday:	Red Cross Building	7 pm
SMART Recovery		
Every Thursday:	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Bridge Players	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Every Friday:	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Party Politics		
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Third Monday of each month:	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Water Office	6 pm
Third Tuesday of each month:	YH City Hall	5 pm
Water Board	Courthouse	5:30 pm
YH Plan Comm.	Blairsville store	5:30 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg		
Humane Shelter Bd.		
Third Wednesday of each month:	McConnell Church	10 am
Quilting Bee	Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	
MOAA		
Third Thursday of each month:	Clubhouse	6 pm
Friendship Comm.	Civic Center	6 pm
Democratic Party	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Goldwing Riders	Daniel's Restaurant	5:30 pm
Fourth Monday of each month:	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Red Cross DAT		
Fourth Tuesday of each month:	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Lions Club	New Senior Ctr.	6:30 pm
Republican Party	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm
Fourth Thursday of each month:		
Humane Shelter Bd.		
Last Thursday of each month:		

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**Towns County (1 Year) \$20. Out of County (1 Year) \$30.** Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points. The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. **Postmaster:** Send change of address to: Towns County Herald, P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee

**Phone:** (706) 896-4454 **Fax:** (706) 896-1745 **Email:** tcherald@windstream.net

**Or mail to:** PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

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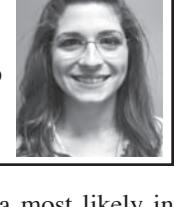
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**UNION COUNTY**

**From the Ground Up**  
**Melissa Mattee**



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